



Community forum pays out to protect allotments

PLOTS: VANDALS ARE FENCED OFF

Report by Jamie Brassington

CONCERNED gardeners have installed fencing to protect Halesowen allotments after incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

The security fences have been erected at the Highfield Park plots used by Highfield Park Allotment Association in Highfield Lane. The fencing was funded by grants from the Belle Vale and the Hayley Green & Cradley South Community Forum.

David Adams, chairman of the allotment association, said: "Without the funding from the community forum we would have found it very difficult to raise the money required for the fence."

"Thank you to all of the councillors who approved the grant and I look forward to welcoming them and members of the public to the allotments when we have our open days later in the year."

Delivered

Funding for fencing at the allotment was first delivered in 2015 with the latest round of cash helping to complete the project and fully protect the site.

The allotments were visited by Belle Vale councillor Simon Phipps earlier this month, who looked at the new measures to protect the site.

He said: "I'm delighted to see the positive outcome that the forum funding has facilitated, especially after hearing of the problems that they were facing before it was completed."

"This is the latest in a long line of projects that the community forums has supported locally and I'd encourage all community groups to consider applying for funding by getting in touch with Dudley Council."

Anyone interested in joining the allotment holders at Highfield Park is invited to email David Adams on d.adams539@btinternet.com.

Community groups looking for funding can do so by applying to their local community forum for a grant. To find out more contact Dudley Council on 0300 555 2345.

ORGANIST ENTERTAINS AS ST PETER'S CELEBRATES



Organist James Brookes at the keys of the restored organ in St Peter's Church, Cradley, where a thanksgiving concert was held

AN historic church resounded to the strains of a newly-restored organ as a service of celebration was held to mark its installation.

The organ, which has been providing music for congregations at St Peter's Church in Cradley for more than 80 years, has been given a new lease of life after restoration work.

Repairs were carried out on the 1933 cinema-style Compton pipe organ following a £7,000 appeal, which funded the installation

of an organ blower rescued from neighbouring St Luke's Church in Cradley Heath, which was demolished, and also paid for work to the electrics.

A congregation of more than 130 attended a classical concert, performed by professional organist Richard Jeffcoat, on Saturday to celebrate the organ's return to working order.

The recital was followed by another musical interlude featuring churchgoers' favourite hymns with the St Peter's organist James Brookes at the keys. He said the concert was a way of saying thanks for the money and time people had given to the fundraising appeal.

Those who had donated were invited to choose a hymn, with the most popular ones including How Great Thou Art, Thine Be The Glory and Shine Jesus Shine.

Among the congregation was a donor who gave £2,000 but wishes to remain anonymous.

POLICE

Man, 20, stabbed outside restaurant

A 20-year-old man was stabbed in the arm with an axe or large knife by a hooded attacker as he left a Dudley restaurant.

The attack happened outside the Chiquito restaurant at Castle Gate on Saturday night. A police spokesman said: "Officers were called to the scene just after 10pm to a report of a hooded man attacking a man with what is described as a large axe or knife as he left the restaurant." The victim was taken to hospital.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

INQUEST

Detectives wait to question suspect

AN inquest has been opened and adjourned on a man found dead in Cradley Heath while police wait to interview a suspect.

The hearing over Martin Briggs' death was opened on Tuesday at Black Country Coroner's Court. The 47-year-old was found dead in Congreaves Walk on November 13 and a man was arrested on suspicion of murder.

Speaking at Black Country Coroner's Court, Detective Constable Lisa McNally said: "We are trying to find out from the mental health doctor some time scales when or if (the suspect) will be fit to be interviewed."

HOMES

£30m housing scheme backed

DUDLEY Council's cabinet has given the go-ahead for a £30 million plan to build more than 300 council homes in the borough over the next five years.

It is part of an ambitious £232m scheme to build new and improve existing council housing to help solve the local housing crisis.

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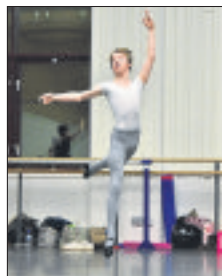
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Boys should give ballet a go, says James



James Garrington leaps into action Photo: Paul Telfer

A YOUNG dancer from Cradley Heath is urging more boys to take up ballet after landing a role in a production made with Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB). Whilst the company's world-class dancers are performing their acclaimed production of The Sleeping Beauty at Birmingham Hippodrome, a group of dance students from across the West Midlands will take to the same stage in a unique project entitled Sleeping Beauty Dreams.

The performance on Monday evening will be the culmination of a four-month quest to inspire and develop dance talent from across the region.

More than 150 hopefuls from the age of eight took part in open auditions in September under the watchful eye of

former BRB dancers Rachel Hester and Jenny Murphy. A final cast of 60 was selected to experience the intensive training, rehearsal and eventual performance of a classic ballet, in front of an audience at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The cast will perform an adapted version of Marius Petipa's choreography against the background of Philip Prowse's exquisite sets from BRB's production. The students will be joined by BRB dancers Yvette Knight as Princess Aurora and Edivaldo Souza da Silva as Prince Florimund.

James Garrington, who trains at Debnair Dance Academy in Cradley Heath, will be dancing The Bluebird, amongst other roles. He said: "Sleeping Beauty Dreams has been an amazing experi-

ence because it's really developed my skills and given me more confidence in my dance ability. My favourite part about Sleeping Beauty Dreams is dancing roles I've only ever dreamed of and having the opportunity to show people what I can do.

"At first it was quite nerve-wracking, being one of the only boys in the production. However, I started ballet, not because I wanted to be different, but because I wanted to try something new. "My favourite thing about ballet has to be the leaps because it makes all of your hard work look effortless. It's a way to express yourself. If any boys are interested in ballet but not sure if it's for them, I'd tell them to just come along and try."

MP calls for answers over staff 'pay-offs'

SANDWELL Council has been accused of spending an 'eye-watering' amount of money on silencing former staff through confidentiality agreements.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has written to the crisis-laden authority demanding details on its use of non-disclosure agreements, which he suggested were being used 'to keep people quiet'.

But now Mr Morris has been accused of launching a 'misleading' and 'politically motivated' attack on the local authority by another West Midlands MP, who is also a Sandwell councillor.

Mr Morris has become embroiled in a war of words with the Labour-led authority's leader Steve Eling after he criticised the council in a Commons debate.

Allegations

He highlighted allegations of corruption against a number of named councillors and called for Mr Eling to resign.

Now Edgbaston's Labour MP Preet Gill has waded into the row, accusing Mr Morris of failing to recognise 'any of the good work' that Sandwell Council carries out.

In a letter to Mr Morris, Ms Gill, who also represents St Paul's on Sandwell Council, wrote: "As I understand it you have not met with the leader of the council, Steve Eling, to discuss your concerns, instead choosing to use the House of Commons chamber to launch a politically



Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris

motivated attack on the Labour-run council and the leader. I was also concerned that some of the individuals you spoke of do in fact have no case to answer. To make such comments without evidence or corroborating information is misleading."

Ms Gill pointed out that a Local



Edgbaston MP Preet Gill is calling for a meeting

Government Association investigation had disproved many of the allegations made by Mr Morris. She added: "You failed to recognise any of the good work that Sandwell Council carries out, not least balancing its budget despite years of Tory austerity, maintaining weekly bin

collections, not closing any libraries or children's centres and a history of innovation."

She called on Mr Morris to schedule a meeting with Mr Eling to discuss his concerns. Mr Eling has refused to quit and branded Mr Morris' remarks 'disgraceful'.

Suicide is verdict on wife killer's death in jail

A CONVICTED killer took his own life in prison one year to the day he bludgeoned his wife to death, an inquest heard.

Paul Abbott was jailed for life with a 15-year minimum term in 2016 after he admitted murdering his wife Jackie at their Netherton home. Abbott was found dead in HMP Long Lartin, in Worcestershire, on December 11, 2016.

Following a one day inquest held at Worcestershire Coroner's Court last Wednesday, a jury concluded his death was suicide.

On December 11, 2015, the horrific attack saw Abbott strike his wife of 28 years, Jackie, at least 16 times with a hammer, at their home in Lodge Crescent.

The 57-year-old was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court in July 2016, after admitting murder.

At the time of Abbott's sentencing, the court was told his gambling, jealousy and controlling behaviour had dominated the relationship. A row over tickets to an Elvis tribute act sparked the fatal assault.

Their sons, who had been at the family's business in Hurst Lane, Brierley Hill, found their 54-year-old mother's body in the back garden.

Green light for 600 new homes

MORE than 600 new homes will be built all across Dudley after councillors gave several new schemes the green light.

Members of Dudley planning committee welcomed proposals for new houses in Dudley town centre, Kingswinford, Rowley Regis and Coseley.

Outline planning permission was granted for a retail and leisure site, a pub and 200 homes to be built on land that was used by Ibstock Brick Ltd in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

A further 142 homes will be built on land next to Darkhouse Lane in Coseley after approval. Plans for 209 homes on the old Excelsior Industrial Estate off Cakemore Road in Rowley Regis were also given the thumbs up and a total of 63 homes will replace the old council offices at the Cloughton Centre in Dudley.

Dementia cafe

A MONTHLY Dementia Cafe is being started at Quinborne Community Centre. From February 28 it is planned to run the event on the last Wednesday of the month at the venue on Ridgacre Road between noon and 2.30pm, offering activities for those with dementia and their carers.

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Travellers' transit site gets the green light

A TRAVELLERS' transit site is to be built in Coseley after Dudley Council bosses backed the proposal.

The site will be established on disused council-owned land off Budden Road. The council is setting up the site to ensure it has stronger powers to deal with illegal camps, which have blighted the Black Country and cost tax-payers £150,000 a year in clean-up and legal fees.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "This is a highly emotive subject and I understand local people care passionately about their area. However, evidence from other local authorities indicates that transit sites are used very infrequently and the most significant effect it has is preventing travellers establishing encampments in the area in the first place

"We have seen a rise in the number of unauthorised camps. These are expensive and cost Dudley taxpayers thousands of pounds in clean up and legal costs. Creating the temporary travellers' site cut the time we spend going through the legal process to move travellers that have camped up illegally."

The Budden Road site came out top of a shortlist of 10 potential locations after public consultation. But there are strong feelings against it in Coseley where Commercial Body Fittings Ltd warned it may have to move due to security and insurance concerns.

Murder case is going to retrial

THE jury has failed to reach a verdict in the trial of a man accused of fatally stabbing a father-of-two in a street fight in Brierley Hill.

Niron Parker-Lee, aged 20, of Blewitt Street, Pensnett, was charged with murdering Mansoor Mahmood, of Bague Walk, Brierley Hill, on the High Street on October 15, 2016, by stabbing him in the chest.

He has been on trial at Birmingham Crown Court but after six and a half hours deliberation the jury were unable to bring a majority verdict.

A retrial has been granted at the request of prosecuting counsel James Millington, QC, and a date provisionally set for July 16.

Parker-Lee has been remanded in custody until the retrial.

Back to the 1940s

AN evening of 1940s style entertainment is promised at Dudley Town Hall on May 15. The show Hits from the Blitz, featuring Five Star Swing and singer Simone, is being staged at 2pm. Call (01384) 812812 for tickets.

Seventh road ban driver is jailed

A BANNED motorist who led police on a high-speed chase through residential streets ignoring several sets of traffic lights has been sent to prison.

Leroy Hall, who has never sat a driving test, was also disqualified from the road – for the seventh time.

The 26-year-old from Dudley Port, was spotted by police on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road at the Junction 2 roundabout for the M5 in the early hours of December 21 last year.

The 'tatty condition' of Hall's Volkswagen Golf caught the eye of the police officers and they noticed he reacted with concern when they pulled up alongside him.

He continued to behave in an 'odd and furtive

manner', including sliding down into his seat, before pulling on to the forecourt of a Shell garage.

As one of the officers approached his car, Hall sped away, said Mr John Evans, prosecuting. The Golf hit speeds of 75mph on Bromford Road and went through two sets of traffic lights on red, before turning into Portway Road, where it travelled at double the 30mph limit, and back on to the Wolverhampton Road.

Mr Evans continued: "Due to the time, there was little on the road. Had there been, there would almost certainly have been a collision."

The police car slowed but Hall, who had a female front seat passenger, still sped through red lights, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

On Newbury Lane he overtook another vehicle at around 60mph, double the speed limit, and veered off into side streets, before rejoining Newbury Lane where he mounted the pavement and drove down a steep embankment into fields. He dumped the car and tried to run for it but was caught by police

Defending, Mr David Iles, said his Hall claimed to be on an 'urgent mission' after receiving a message that he was about to become a father.

Hall, of Colbourne Road, who had been banned six times in less than two years, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

He was jailed for 14 months and banned from driving for three years.

Four advice centres will close to create one base

FOUR Citizens Advice centres in Dudley are to be closed down with the charity combining services in one town centre base.

Drop-in centres in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen will close in April and be replaced by what CAB bosses described as a new town centre 'super service' in Dudley House at Stone Street.

But the move has been criticised by Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward. He said: "This is going to be a disaster. So many people go to Citizens Advice and use it as a vital service. When we as councillors cannot help, we always send people there.

"Most the people who need places like this are either low paid or elderly. The elderly citizens are a forgotten army who need the help the most from places like this on issues such as accommodation.

"Even ex-service people when they are in need of support after being demobbed go to Citizens Advice because they are able to offer them the best support."

Demand

However Laura Thomas, CEO, Citizens Advice Dudley Borough, said many local centres were already having to close early and a new 'super service' would mean the CAB would not have to turn people away.

She said: "For a long time Citizens Advice Dudley Borough's local services have been frequently forced to close early as a result of overwhelming demand. This has often meant that people who really need our service have been turned away. To deal with as many cases as possible we have made the decision to close our four current building-based services and create a super service in the heart of Dudley. It will ensure we are able to offer assistance to all of those who need it."

Halesowen CAB is in the Cornbow shopping centre, Stourbridge is in Market Street, Brierley Hill CAB is at the library in the High Street while the Dudley one is St James's Road. They are expected to close on April 6 with the new centre opening on April 9.

Talent can win carnival showcase



Judges Josh Smiiffy, Andy Douglas and Rebecca Howard get ready for Halesowen's Got Talent

A NEW talent show is being launched to find a town's next star.

Halesowen's Got Talent will see budding performers of all ages line up on March 18 to take a crack at the first place prize – a chance to bag £150 and perform as part of Halesowen Carnival.

Bosses have said they are hoping the event, at Benjamin's on Birmingham Street in Halesowen on March 18, will raise funds for Halesowen Carnival, which takes place at Highfield Park on July 7.

Event organiser Michelle Williams, from Halesowen, said: "It is a talent show for all ages –

everyone can enter old or young whether it is singing or dancing or gymnastics or anything."

It costs £5 to enter the competition, which takes place between 1pm and 6pm, or £3 for tickets to the show. Both can be arranged by contacting event organiser Michelle on 07598 981932.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jazz festival shots are now on display

A COLLECTION of eye-catching photographs from the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 is now on display until June.

Photographs, which capture some of the stars of the festival, are at six venues: Sandwell Arts Café, Central Sixth campus, New Street, West Bromwich; Central Library, High Street, West Bromwich; Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street; Tipton Library, Unity Walk; Blackheath Library, High Street; and Bleakhouse Library, Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury.

The Jazz Festival returns in July and more volunteers are needed. Call 0121 569 4904.

Police arrest two over cannabis den

A CANNABIS factory was discovered during a police raid in Brierley Hill on Monday, leading to the arrests of a man and woman.

More than 70 plants were found at a property on Talbot Street at 10.40am.

Police arrested a 28-year-old man and 34-year-old woman on suspicion of cultivating cannabis.

A Twitter account of Brierley Hill-based police shared a picture of the cannabis farm online.

Dozens of green plants were pictured in a room illuminated by indoor growing lights.

Talk on the real Peaky Blinders

THERE will be a talk on the real Peaky Blinders by a popular historian in Birmingham.

Professor Carl Chinn is delivering the lecture in the Mockingbird Theatre at Digbeth's Custard Factory, the creative hub on Gibb Street, on June 26 at 7pm.

He will be telling the story of the real gangs that terrorised people in the city and at racecourses during the 1920s.

Prof Chinn will also be signing copies of his book The Real Peaky Blinders.

Franz ascending for gig at O2 Academy

SCOTTISH indie rock band Franz Ferdinand will be in concert in Birmingham on Tuesday just a few days after releasing their fifth studio album, Always Ascending.

The five-piece band from Glasgow, whose hits include Take Me Out and Do You Want To, play the city's O2 Academy.

The support act is Albert Hammond Jr, lead guitarist of New York group The Strokes.

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78 frontline officers axed in police support staff move

WEST Midlands Police is to spend an extra £10 million on office staff – while axing 78 frontline officers. The force budget for the 2018/19 financial year reveals support staff pay will increase from £98.1m to £108m.

But spending on police officers will fall £317,000 to £352.5m – and the number of officers will drop 78 to 6,450. It comes as crime across the region continues to rise with latest figures showing a 14 per cent increase in one year.

Jail for thug who helped beat up man

A THUG who helped to beat up a man who owed a £15,000 drug debt has been jailed for 26 months.

Nayyid Mohammed joined two others in the assault after the gang went to the building site where the victim was working, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 22-year-old was not the person to whom the money was owed and played a 'lesser role' in the incident, ruled Judge Simon Ward who said: "You were recruited and you were happy to go along."

Whilst on bail for this offence the defendant rammed a police patrol car that had pursued him after he was spotted swerving from lane to lane.

Mohammed of Marshall Street, Smethwick, admitted causing grievous bodily harm and driving dangerously with neither valid licence nor insurance.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is behind the budget.

It also includes an average £12 rise in council tax precept for residents in the West Midlands to increase the overall budget to £548.1m. Mr Jamieson said the rise in support staff spending was required to cover annual increases in salaries.

He said the force was also recruiting more specialist officers over the next two years to deal with fraud and cyber crime. But the move to cut spending on police officers has been slammed by Walsall MP Eddie Hughes.

He said: "It seems crazy to me – people in the Black Country are angry that the PCC is increasing their council tax and in return, they are going to see little benefit from it."

This week the Police Grant Settlement for the force was approved, resulting in a £12.5m loss in funding for the force for 2018/19. In response to this, the council tax precept was increased as part of budget.

The £12 rise in Band D council tax precept is the maximum allowed and is up from the previous limit of £5 a year.

It will pay for 100 new police officers over the next two years – but due to officers leaving the force, the total number will still decrease.

Street sees school's strides first hand



Andy Street joins pupils from Glebefields Primary School on their daily commute as part of the WoW scheme

THE West Midlands mayor put his best foot forward when he joined pupils to walk to school. Andy Street strolled alongside youngsters on their daily commute in Tipton to celebrate the strides they have made to get healthier by walking to school.

He joined pupils and parents from Glebefields Primary School on the walk to hear first-hand about their journey. The youngsters take part in WOW (Walk Once a Week), a year-

round walk to school challenge with charity Living Streets. The challenge rewards children who walk to school at least once a week with collectable badges. It has been shown to boost walking rates by 23 per cent.

Mr Street said: "I'm thrilled to have joined families on their walk to school and to celebrate the achievements of these pupils. It's great to see the impact Living Streets' work is having with so many children taking to their

feet. The West Midlands has one of the highest rates of obesity in the country – around 40 per cent of children here leave primary school overweight – and walking more is a great way to help tackle this.

"I want more schools to follow in the footsteps of the pupils at Glebefields Primary School and swap four wheels for two feet for the journey to school and start experiencing the benefits of walking more."

Winter tips to keep the elderly warm

COUNCIL chiefs have joined a campaign to help the elderly and those with long-term conditions during colder weather.

Sandwell Council is supporting the national Stay Well This Winter campaign. The authority says there are a number of things which can help people over 65 or with long-term health condition during the winter.

It is important for people at risk to keep warm, both inside and outdoors in a bid to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Heat homes to at least 18°C (65°F), with the living room being slightly warmer if preferred.

At the first sign of a cough or a cold, they are advised to seek help from a pharmacist before it gets more serious. Check about getting medicines in stock.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign is a joint initiative from NHS England and Public Health England.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, Sandwell's cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "We want all our residents to stay warm and keep well this winter."

For more information call 0121 552 0563 or 0800 033 7967 (freephone) or send an email to enquiries@warmzones.co.uk

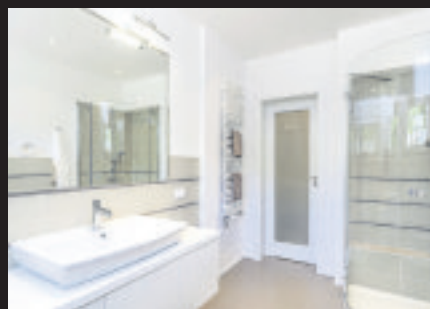
Choose name for zoo baby baboon

DUDLEY Zoo has welcomed a new arrival – the first female gelada baboon to be born at the Castle Hill attraction.

Visitors are now being given the chance to choose her name on Facebook. People can choose Kadida, Tullu or Amhara and votes will be counted up at the end of the week.

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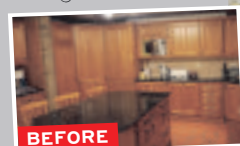
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Concern over firefighters' care contracts

FIREFIGHTERS are in a stand-off over care contracts with councils to attend elderly falls, union bosses have claimed.

West Midlands Fire Service had agreed a two-year contract with councils to respond to emergency call-outs from OAPs who have fallen at home, while one authority is also paying for hospital patient transportation.

The fire service won contracts with Wolverhampton and Dudley councils. But after a dispute with the Fire Brigades Union on the work, members have withdrawn support for their employer's contract with the councils.

Firefighters and civilian staff can and have volunteered to take part in the flexible scheme, which can boost their wages by 25 per cent. Crews at Wolverhampton and Fallings Park attended 2,119 falls as part of the contract with Wolverhampton council in 2016/17, compared to 992 actual fires.

Andrew Scattergood, from West Midlands Fire Brigades Union, said: "The union agreed to do the contracts as a trial and when it raised concerns over training and equipment it decided to stop the trial."

The FBU has raised concerns about the training of firefighters for the new roles as well as the risk it could impact cover for actual fires.

West Midlands Fire Service Chief Fire Officer, Phil Loach, said the contract was 'a fantastic opportunity to help the most vulnerable'.

Law firm is backing Promise Dreams work

A BLACK Country law firm has chosen to support the family charity Promise Dreams for 2018.

George Green, which has offices in Cradley Heath and Wolverhampton, will be raising cash for the Wolverhampton-based charity that helps ill children and their families.

Dangerous banned driver had taken cocaine and cannabis

Lee turns down Cambridge for Ivy League



Lee Harding with Tracey Beach, pastoral leader for Key Stage 5, and Andrew Burns, Ormiston Forge Academy principal

A STUDENT at a Cradley Heath school has turned down a place at Cambridge to join an Ivy League university in America instead.

Ormiston Forge Academy student Lee Harding is all set to make the 3,220 mile journey from the Black Country to take up a place at Brown University in Rhode Island in the autumn.

The 18-year-old, from Rowley Regis, will be the first in his family to go to

university. He beat competition from 1,000 other applicants to land the place and a financial aid package to help with living and tuition costs.

The offer came after Lee, who lives with his mother and two brothers, took part in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

The aim of the programme is to encourage academically talented British students from low and moderate in-

come homes to consider studying at American universities.

Founded in 1764, Brown University is the seventh-oldest college in the United States.

Lee is predicted to get three A*s in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and an A in Further Maths when he sits his A-levels in the summer.

He has turned down a place at Magdalene College in Cambridge to study engineering in America.

A DRUG-FUELLED banned driver from Dudley who led police on a high speed 24-mile chase from Worcestershire into the Black Country is starting a 12 month prison sentence.

A police dog handler spotted Kasim Ajmal at the wheel of a stolen Astra travelling too fast at Clows Top in Worcestershire in the early hours of March 22, a judge heard.

The officer – who had two dogs with him – gave chase as the 23-year-old consistently broke the speed limit while heading towards the West Midlands, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The Astra went the wrong way round a traffic island on the Bewdley by-pass while other police vehicles joined the pursuit.

The Astra accelerated up to 70mph in a 30mph limit and ignored a red light – the fourth he had driven through – as it neared Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, revealed Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting.

The car went on the wrong side of the carriageway for a short distance on the approach to the town centre near King Street before driving across a grass bank to get out of a dead end.

Stolen

Three occupants jumped out of the car – that had been stolen five months earlier – before it came to a standstill in Oliver Street, continued Mr Ball.

Ajmal was recognised as the driver of the Astra when seen walking on nearby Cromwell Street. Forensic checks discovered his DNA on a water bottle found in the abandoned Astra.

The driver also tested positive for cannabis and cocaine, the court heard. Miss Seamran Sidhu, defending, said: "It was very lucky nobody was hurt." She said the defendant had 'lost his way' after being involved in a serious accident five years ago.

Ajmal from Watson Green Road, Kates Hill, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and driving while disqualified and was sent to prison for a year.

Recorder Greg Kelly told him: "You drove so dangerously for so long, putting other people at significant risk."

Hundreds of new trees at country park

MORE than 300 trees will be planted at a country park near Kinver as part of a rotary club project.

Kingsford Country Park will be home to new ash, beech and spruce trees as part of a worldwide scheme by the Rotary movement.

Rotarians aim to plant more than 1.2 million trees across the world – one for each member of the organisation.

Although the Rotary Club of Kinver has a membership of 45, members have agreed with the National Trust to plant 300 at the beauty spot.

Members will be helped by pupils from Brindley Heath Junior School.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Words that just add up to a lot of confusion

STRANGE how words that have been in common use for centuries are suddenly used to mean something completely different.

For example, until last week I had pretty firm ideas of what farmers and miners did. Farmers produce food – you know, growing crops, tending to animals, that kind of thing. And miners? They go on strike. And in between strikes they dig beneath the ground for coal, gold, or whatever. I'm fairly certain they don't set fire to tower blocks.

Yet last week, a Russian website said a huge fire in a Vladivostok tower block was caused by a computer nerd 'mining' for Bitcoins.

"Officers intervened and shut down the illegal farm," it said.

Apparently, mining for Bitcoins involves solving lots of very complicated equations, which overloaded Mr Nerdovitch's computers. In what sounds like a particularly bad episode of Doctor Who, the mathematical processes caused a power surge, sending the flat up in flames. Who knew Bitcoins were so dangerous?

ANOTHER word which seems to change definition depending on context is "exciting". In everyday conversation, I think I know what it means. But whenever it is used by local government, it seems to take on a very different definition.

Take, for example, the announcement by Dudley Council that 13 months after handing a five-year lease to the Dudley Hippodrome friends group, it will be terminating the agreement.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We will be looking to draw up some exciting plans for the site."

I think we all have an idea of what "exciting plans" involve. A new theatre or opera house. A major tourist attraction, on the scale of the Patrick Motor Museum which was due to come to Dudley 16 years ago, before local politics got in the way. That would be exciting.

The problem is some of the other "exciting" plans the council has put forward for the site in the past. First, it was a temporary pay-and-display car park. Then there was a metal-framed conference room then a block-paving scheme. Now the word is, if the Hippodrome is demolished, the site will be used for yet another college building. I doubt if even the students are excited about that.

I have no idea whether the Hippodrome friends have a viable plan, or indeed why the council bought the building in the first place. But until someone comes up with something more "exciting" there's surely no harm in giving them a chance.

Why pardon Suffragettes for crimes they were proud of?



Anthony Bangham – accused of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over limit



Jacob Rees-Mogg – says he is a weed but beware that he has never learned to box



Shaun Evans – has about eight years to morph into somebody resembling Morse

They rejoiced in breaking the law

THIS week's centenary of Votes for Women has been accompanied by much playing of the Suffragettes' song March of the Women by Ethel Mary Smyth. From time to time we moan about our dirge-like National Anthem. Well, here's a ready-made replacement, although some of Cicely Hamilton's lyrics might need changing. "Cry with the wind, for the dawn is breaking" sounds like a medical condition but you can't argue with the splendour of: "Open your eyes to the blaze of day."

THERE are calls to pardon Suffragettes who planted bombs, committed arson and smashed windows in the campaign for Votes for Women. Leave well alone. The Suffragettes rejoiced in breaking the law. They boasted of the number of times they were force-fed, like a badge of honour. What right have we, 100 years later, to pardon them for crimes they were proud to commit?

ADVICE to balaclava-wearing urban warriors considering squaring up to the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg. Don't. Rees-Mogg, who confronted a bunch of offensive protesters at a university debate, says he is an utter weed. I am reminded of the weedy public schoolboy who was on a farm-management course I attended many years ago. He was the only one of us with a car and one night another student, a big, tough rocker with a fringed leather jacket, said it would be a big laff to steal the weedy kid's car for a joyride. He (the rocker) turned up for breakfast the next morning with a bloody nose and a black eye. Turned out the weedy kid, who had caught him in the act, was the all-England public schools flyweight champion. They may look inoffensive but a lot of public school boys do something the rest of us never do. Boxing.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



NO sooner had the Daily Mail accused West Mercia's chief constable Anthony Bangham of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over the speed limit than the back-peddalling began. The National Police Chiefs Council insisted Mr Bangham had not called for punishment for going 1mph too fast. Much relief all round. Enforcing the law in such a draconian, zero-tolerance fashion would be stupid and quite unworthy of any British constabulary.

LAWYERS are preparing cases to prove that women employees of Tesco are doing "work of equal value" to male employees in different jobs, and deserve to be paid the same. This follows the Birmingham City Council campaign where school dinner ladies were judged to be of equal value to binmen and received pay rises and back pay. It has so far cost the council more than £1,000 million. Tesco could be ordered to pay £5,000 million. The case I am longing to see is that of Anna, the minimum-wage cleaner in a large legal practice specialising in employment law. While Anna has no legal qualifications, she keeps the place tidy, disinfects the kitchen and loos and washes the mugs. She provides a clean environment allowing the partners to work in safety. And one day a judge rules that, although Anna's work is very different from that of the lawyers, it is "of equal value" and she therefore deserves the same pay as the average barrister in the practice. Anna gets an immediate rise of £200,000 a year and £5 million back pay. Strangely enough, her bosses do not stand

outside the High Court and claim this is a great victory for equal rights.

IN Endeavour (ITV), Shaun Evans plays the 'young' Inspector Morse. As the new series begins, Evans is 37. Inspector Morse was first screened in 1987 when John Thaw (Morse) was 45. Which means Evans has about eight years to successfully morph into somebody resembling John Thaw, or risk being denounced by one of the older Morse's colleagues at Cowley nick. "Hang on, pal. I knew Morse in his 40s and he was nothing like you . . ." Impersonating a police officer, eh?

A READER draws my attention to "energy shots," which come in tiny 60ml bottles at health shops and promise to "boost your focus." He says the price works out at £31 per litre - more than a bottle of malt whisky. True enough. On the other hand, no-one ever claimed that pure malt boosted anything, with the possible exception of the pub's profits. Another 40-year-old Glenfuddle, sir?

A READER writes: "What the hell has identity to do with leaving the EU?" Seriously? Can some people really not see the difference between the UK as one of 28 members of a political bloc governed from Brussels and the UK as an independent nation governed from Westminster, making its own trade deals, passing its own laws and guarding its own frontiers? What a fine job the EU propaganda ministry has been doing. Meanwhile, the recent threats from Brussels to punish Britain in the transition period are a reminder, if we needed it, that the EU is not a big, jolly, benevolent organisation but a hard-nosed capitalist federation, hell-bent on preventing any other states from quitting.

TALKING POINT



Trying for a baby? Do NOT watch the soaps

IT'S heartbreaking. I feel so sorry for the millions of women desperate to have a baby – that awful feeling when you have been trying for so long and nothing happens. Sometimes there does not even seem to be a medical explanation.

And while they struggle on, with every month bringing new hope of that longed-for baby, only to have their hopes dashed, it seems that all around them – friends, relatives or colleagues – are announcing their happy news.

There are smiles on their faces as they express their congratulations but they are no doubt eaten up with jealousy.

Everywhere, they see babies, buggies, smiling children. It is so hard. And many pay out thousands to go through round after round of IVF which end in failure and more heartbreak and a very sorry-looking bank balance.

People think that babies can be planned – best time to suit your lifestyle, finances, new home etc – but it does not work out that way for everyone.

You may wonder why I am writing about this. The answer is TV soaps. These just add insult to injury for these poor women. I just hope that they don't watch them, because they just pile on the misery.

In these soaps, it seems that a reckless one-night stand means an instant pregnancy. How hard that must be for the women who have been trying for months or even years and are in a committed relationship, or the woman who has just returned from hospital recovering from a miscarriage – do you ever really recover?

Why do the soaps have to use this storyline, if you can call it that, so many times? Surely they should be advocating the importance of using some sort of protection. It seems totally irresponsible.

When dealing with any other sort of medical or emotional problems, there is normally a message at the end of the programme: "If you've been affected by this storyline you can call . . ."

But with the pregnancy storylines, there is nothing to bring any help or comfort to all the would-be mums they have upset. This is possibly a medical and definitely an emotional problem and should be recognised as such.

And maybe another warning to viewers – if you are going to have a quick bit of unplanned fun, probably with someone you shouldn't, then you should be aware of the risks of an unwanted pregnancy. Or maybe just give the 'fun' a miss.

We teach our children to be responsible and the soaps' attitude is not one they should be having thrown at them over and over again. Scriptwriters take note – you are causing a lot of misery.

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TV Gunpowder gore was justified

IT is true that the BBC drama serial 'Gunpowder' contains elements of fiction, as stated by Peter Rhodes (Stourbridge Chronicle Nov 2).

However, his point about the fictional Lady Dorothy being portrayed in 'grisly and obscene detail' to 'crank up the gore level' needs to be answered.

The execution scene in the first episode and even Lady Dorothy's dialogue were taken straight from the execution of Mrs Margaret Clitherow in 1586 at York. Likewise, the disembowelling sequence was similar to that inflicted on Father John Wall in

Worcester on 1679. One of his 'crimes' was saying mass in Stourbridge. These explicit scenes, although very hard to watch, were authentic, relevant and not at all gratuitous.

The Gunpowder Plot was finally played out in a siege with many of the conspirators at Holbeche House, Kingswinford. Interestingly, while Margaret Clitherow and John Wall were later declared saints because they died for their Catholic consciences, Guy Fawkes and his conspirators, for obvious reasons, were not.

BERNARD CARTWRIGHT
Stourbridge

Fluoridation made folk complacent

RECENT statistics reveal that despite having fluoridised our water for decades, tooth decay amongst children is at an all-time high.

This casts doubt on the wisdom of putting fluoride into the water supply.

Could it be that parents have become complacent, thinking that fluoride in our water supply eliminates the need to brush teeth? If so, it is time to stop the process.

If people can't be bothered to brush their teeth properly, then it is their loss and the dentist's gain.

Fluoride is an aggressive substance, so why should the rest of us be poisoned because of them?

There are also other factors that should be considered. The process must be costly, so removing it could reduce our water bills.

Although we are told that the amounts used are tiny, who knows what the long-term consequences of ingesting it for many decades might be? The source of some of those dreadful incurable diseases that have suddenly cropped up in recent decades maybe?

I appreciate that drinking water passes through chemical processes during purification, but I believe that it should be as pure as possible, without adding more chemicals for the sake of a process that consumers are perfectly capable of providing for themselves.

MR M CLIFF
Wall Heath



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Mother was killed by a motorist

THANK you for the Express & Star campaign 'Enough is Enough', demanding tougher sentences for drivers who kill, with the proposed new law for dangerous driving yet to go before Parliament.

I back the campaign; I have every reason to. In December 1982 my mother was killed on a pelican crossing. The teenage sports car driver, who'd been drinking, was speeding and coming from a car park on to the main road without headlights on, accelerating.

The accident report stated my mother was thrown into the air 10 to 15 feet high. She died instantly. He wasn't even prosecuted! He had no insurance. I claimed compensation from the uninsured drivers insurance fund, and I received £2,500 compensation. I heard no more about it. So, he got away with murder, as I'll always say.

J ADAMS
Rowley Regis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Code of Practice:

Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a



story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Aynuk remembers Ed

OVER the years, my late partner John, AKA 'Ayli' and myself 'Aynuk', have had the honour of being associated with Ed Doolan of BBC Radio WM. It was always a pleasure and a privilege to appear on his events, especially his Christmas show, and also we were the subjects once, on his programme on Sunday mornings - 'The Other Side Of' which was fashioned after Desert Island Discs.

Ed always made us very welcome whenever we met him. Over the years, Ayli and myself met some wonderful people in show business, Ed rated in the top ten.

Goodbye Ed for now, see you later. Thanks for being a mate.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Jail for driver who jumped 13 red lights during chase

A YOUNG driver with neither insurance nor a valid licence led police on a terrifying 16-mile chase across the Black Country during which he drove through 13 sets of red lights.

Aiden Jimenez had just got a Renault Megan and wanted to show off to friends. He has been locked up for a year.

But Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the 21-year-old 'panicked' when police ordered him to stop and accelerated away in the car, which had false number plates.

Mr Andrew Baker, prosecuting, said: "He drove dangerously for 16 miles in a pursuit that lasted for 19 minutes and involved him going through 13 sets of red traffic lights, sometimes on the wrong side of the road forcing oncoming vehicles to take evasive action." Jimenez hit speeds up to 35 mph over the legal limit and did so in a rain storm that created 'appalling' driving conditions during the early hours of November 11.

Say 'I do' to wedding fair

ORGANISERS of a Black Country wedding fair are offering the chance to win a luxury prize.

Brides who register for the event at The Mount Hotel in Tettenhall on February 25 from 11am to 3pm will be in with a chance of winning an afternoon tea for two in the Drawing Room Bar and Grill.

Go to www.wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk for details.

There will be up to 30 exhibitors at the fair, which will feature all aspects of planning a wedding including venues, dresses and suits, as well as hair and beauty, cars, flowers and photography.

Anyone interested in exhibiting at the fair, staged by Wolverhampton Magazine, can email deana.jones@expressandstar.co.uk or leah.edmunds@expressandstar.co.uk

Stinger

Police were on the verge of abandoning the chase when Jimenez's Megan finally ground to a halt in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, after its tyres had been burst by a 'stinger' placed in its path by other police officers.

The defendant was on licence after being released early from a three year jail term for supplying drugs.

Miss Sabhya Pathan, defending, said: "He describes himself as an appalling driver but ironically he had purchased the Megan to further his career prospects and was about to take his driving test when this happened."

"He panicked when he saw a police car with its lights flashing behind him. He knew he had no insurance or valid licence and did not want to go back to prison, so he put his foot down."

Jimenez, from Westbourne Road, Handsworth, admitted dangerous driving, failing to stop and not having either insurance or licence. He was put behind bars and gets a 12 month driving ban on his release.

Hippodrome campaigners say fight goes on



Supporters of the move to reopen Dudley Hippodrome make their views known to councillors in Dudley

THE future of a Dudley landmark remains unclear after council bosses agreed to take it back into their possession.

Campaigners have been fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome on Castle Hill, once the borough's premier venue. They were renaming it Black Country Hippodrome.

But Dudley Council's cabinet ruled that a five-year lease, granted to campaigners in December 2016, was unworkable and voted to take back control, claiming the group had failed to hit targets.

Protesters gathered outside the council house ahead of the crunch meeting on Thursday evening. Steve

Daniels, a spokesman for the group, said: "We have worked really hard on the project." Hippodrome supporters expressed their anger including a shout of 'rubbish' in the council chamber.

Mr Daniels said campaigners will try to get listed status for the former theatre, to protect it from demolition.

Raise a glass to ale fans' favourite pubs

A POPULAR pub in Halesowen is raising a glass to its success after coming out on top in a pub of the year poll.

Black Country Ales pub The Waggon And Horses has been chosen as the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale's (Camra) pub of the year.

The Stourbridge Road watering hole came top with The Robin Hood in Collis Street, Amblecote, in second place and Stourbridge town centre's Red House Boutique third.

The branch's cider pub of the year is another Waggon and Horses, in Worcester Street, Stourbridge. The club of the year accolade has gone to Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club in Stewart Road, Halesowen.

A cider celebration is planned in memory of chairman of Birmingham branch of Camra Sally Lavender, who died last week aged 47. It will be held at The Old Dispensary in Causeway Green Road, Langley, on March 3 from noon until 4pm.

£8k made by bust found in garden

A RARE marble bust of a politician found in a garden in the Black Country fetched an impressive £8,000 at an auction - 10 times higher than the valuation.

The marble bust of eminent Georgian politician Charles James Fox, which was found in a garden in Halesowen, fetched a whopping £8,000 at Bridgnorth's Perry and Phillips Auctioneers last week, bought by a London-based investor.

The antique was estimated to sell for between £500 and £800, but went for much more after some very fierce bidding from British and overseas interests.

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Dog thefts are on the increase across region

"WE are absolutely devastated." Those are the words of Rachael Wootton, from Hagley, whose pug Herbie was stolen from her parents' house in Coven while away on holiday.

Thankfully there was a happy outcome at Herbie was later recovered and returned to his family but the heartbreaking comments show the human impact behind new statistics which reveal dog thefts have risen by nearly 30 per cent in the West Midlands in the last three years.

Having a beloved pet taken away leaves families feeling like they have lost a member of the family. And not knowing whether their dog is safe or healthy only makes the ordeal worse.

Snatched

Speaking at the time, Rachael Wootton said: "We are absolutely devastated. Not knowing where he is or who he's with, it's unbearable."

Herbie was snatched in June last year but returned safe and well a month later after being handed into vets in Somerset.

Burglars broke a heavily padlocked gate to the side of Rachael's parents' house near before smashing through a pane of glass in the conservatory, and then totally removed a window to get access to steal the pup.

In October 2016, four seven-week-old puppies were snatched by thieves from the back garden of their home in Cradley Heath. The young cocker spaniels, worth around £750 each, were taken from whelping boxes in a pen in Maypole Fields, while the owners were out.

Seventy-eight dogs have been stolen in the region in the past three years,



Alex and Rachael Wootton with an appeal poster when Herbie was stolen

according to new figures. A Freedom of Information request has found there was a 29 per cent increase from 2015 to 2017. Of the nearly 80 dogs that were stolen, 32 were snatched from their owners' gardens.

Sergeant Matt Colston, from the West Midlands Police dog unit, said: "If a person is sure their dog has been stolen it is treated as a theft and therefore a criminal investigation will

take place. As with all crime types it is better to take steps to prevent a theft from occurring in the first place by avoiding situations where dogs can be stolen, such as leaving them alone outside shops for example.

"If a dog is stolen, then detailed descriptions, as well as photographs, can significantly help us. It is a legal requirement that dogs are micro-chipped."



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Chamber echoes criticism of bosses

A BUSINESS organisation has added its voice to the barrage of criticism raining down on former bosses of failed building giant Carillion.

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, hit out at the 'distinct lack of ownership' from Carillion's directors and former directors over the collapse.

Mr Crane echoed the harsh criticism of Carillion's directors by the joint chairs of a parliamentary inquiry last week into the company's liquidation, which saw the directors dubbed 'delusional characters'.

Mr Crane was also critical of the bosses, saying: "During the parliamentary committee meeting, there was a distinct lack of ownership coming from Carillion bosses regarding the company's collapse, which is disappointing given the profound impact it has had upon businesses involved in their supply chain network."

Helpline

Mr Crane revealed that the 'overriding' reason companies are calling the Black Country's Carillion helpline is worry over whether they will ever be paid for work they carried out for the collapsed construction giant.

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce has been running the helpline since the day the Wolverhampton-based group collapsed owing millions of pounds.

Businesses on Carillion's supply chain that have been affected can call the helpline on 01902 912322.

Widow Phyllis won convoy recognition



Phyllis Coyle with the medal she campaigned for

A WIDOW from Dudley who fought tirelessly to get recognition for the brave men who served on Arctic convoys during the Second World War has died, aged 89.

Phyllis Coyle campaigned for the Arctic Convoy Star to be presented to the thousands of men who delivered vital supplies to Soviet Russia during the war, braving the dangers of the Nazi navy and extreme weather conditions.

Among them was her husband Mick, who died two years before former Prime Minister David Cameron announced the medals would be given in 2012.

Memorial

She later used £15,000 of her own savings for a memorial for those who served on the convoys at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield.

Mrs Coyle, who lived in Pensnett, died last month at Russells Hall Hospital.

Her husband Mick, who was a stoker in the Royal Navy between 1942 and 1947, took part in four convoys to Russia during the war. More than 3,000 men were killed when convoys were attacked.

On receiving the medal on Mick's behalf five years ago, she said: "When they called to tell me I cried - it's been 65 years, what a long wait but finally we got it. I'm just so sad Mick never saw it, he would have been so happy."

"He and thousands of men faced so much danger but got no recognition from the British Government."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has led the tributes. He said: "Phyllis Coyle was a wonderful lady who contributed a huge amount to our community. She fought so hard to get proper recognition for the brave men, like her beloved husband Mick, who served on the Arctic Convoys, just as she supported all local veterans."

"I will always remember travelling to Alrewas with her for the unveiling of the monument to the convoy veterans that she organised. She and Mick did so much for Dudley. I feel privileged to have known her."

Hundreds of youngsters to be anti-bullying ambassadors

MORE than 450 young people from across Dudley borough will become anti-bullying ambassadors.

They are to be trained by national charity the Diana Award to help combat the menace of bullying.

Dudley's community safety part-

nership, Safe & Sound, and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, will provide match funding to help schools enrol pupils on the nationally-acclaimed ambassador programme.

Sixty three primary schools, 12 secondary schools and seven special schools from Dudley are taking part. One hundred members of staff will also be trained.

Since the ambassador programme was set up in 2011, more than 24,000 young people from across the UK have been trained. Anti-bullying ambassadors help educate their peers on bullying, both physical bullying and online, lead on campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates differences and helps youngsters keep safe.

Find out more at the diana-award.org.uk website.

MP asking for ideas to stop the speeders

AN MP will be working with the community over concerns about speeding vehicles on a Dudley road

Residents contacted Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, to take action to reduce speeding along Cinder Road in Gornal Wood.

Issues were raised about speeding vehicles, especially large commercial vehicles such as lorries causing disruption. Mr Austin has now written to all residents to ask what measures they feel should be put in place.

He said: "Cinder Road residents have told me that speeding on the road is so bad that they are concerned for the safety of road users and pedestrians. I am hoping that something can be done to combat the problem before a bad accident happens."

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Delight as school celebrates success in borough results

Once again, Hydesville Tower School is placed near the top of the performance tables for GCSE results in the borough.

The DfE has just published data for last summer's examinations, and Hydesville's Attainment 8 score far exceeds national and local averages.

This score measures how well pupils performed in their best eight GCSE subjects and is a clear indicator of the exceptional standards within the school.

Without an 11-plus entry mechanism, success such as this is secured through highly qualified, inspiring teachers, small class sizes allowing personalised learning, exceptional pastoral care and a flexible curriculum.

Outstanding

Miss Nijjar, Head of Senior School, said: "I am delighted to report our outstanding achievements. The staff at the school provide huge support for the pupils, and deliver expert teaching to enable great progress.

"We have pupils who work hard and engage with their peers and their teachers to secure the strongest outcomes. We are proud to be an inclusive school; children are welcomed with diverse talents and interests, and we see it as our duty to ensure they become highly successful learners."

Performance tables are one measure of success, but the progress being made by pupils is also tremendous. The Headmaster, Mr Honey, describes



Headteacher Mr Honey with Hydesville Tower School pupils

the aspirational targets for 'value added' as being key to helping each child fulfil their potential.

He said: "To be in an environment where every child is known well is incredibly powerful for their education. No one slips through the net, because their aptitudes and attitudes are understood."

"The school has a genuine family feel,

so parents know that their child will be supported throughout the time as an adolescent, and encouraged to flourish across the range of their subjects."

The next open event for Hydesville Tower School will be on Saturday, March 3, and visits and taster days are available on request. More details are available on the website www.hydesville.com



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Thousands are needed to join the 'pink army'



Hundreds of females joined the pink army to take part in the fundraising Race for Life at Himley last year

THOUSANDS of women and girls are needed to join the 'pink army' and make a stand against cancer by taking part in the Race for Life.

A whole host of 5k, 10k and Pretty Muddy obstacle course events are taking place across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham.

In 2017, more than £700,000 was generated by mothers, daughters, sisters and friends coming together to show their commitment to the cause. Now a rallying call has been issued to women and girls to sign up and help to raise more vital funds this summer.

The traditional 5k and 10k Race

for Life events, organised by Cancer Research UK, see women and girls donning all manner of pink clothing and accessories to walk, jog or run the courses. While Pretty Muddy sees participants jumping over inflatable obstacles and tumbling down slides to complete this messy challenge in style.

On May 12 there will be 5k, 10k and Kids Pretty Muddy events at Weston Park on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border. The following day, May 13, Race for Life comes to Walsall Arboretum and on May 20, there will be events at Cannon Hill Park in Birmingham. Wolverhampton's West Park will host a 5k Race for Life on June 17. Thousands are expected to

descend on Himley Park, for the popular 5k on July 8.

On July 14, Pretty Muddy comes to Cofton Park in Longbridge, Birmingham and following the successful launch of Pretty Muddy at Sandwell Valley Country Park last year, it will be returning on September 29.

Emily Thompson, race manager for Wolverhampton and the Black Country, said: "The atmosphere at Race for Life is just fantastic, full of emotion. Everyone wears a back sign during the event sharing why they are taking part - in memory, or in celebration, of a friend or relative."

● For more information see the raceforlife.org website.

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The Kaiser Chiefs are onto a winner with a concert at Wolverhampton Racecourse Photo by Danny North

Kaiser Chiefs are odds on to provide a big finale

ONE of Britain's favourite bands, The Kaiser Chiefs, are a sure bet to end Ladies' Day on a high when rock and racing combine at Wolverhampton Racecourse this summer.

Tickets went on sale yesterday (Wednesday) for the Yorkshire band's concert at Dunstall, which will mark the combination of the annual ladies' day meeting and feature concert fixtures at all-weather track.

"We got asked if we'd come to play @WolvesRaces and @WindsorRaces

and couldn't say neigh," quipped the Leeds band's frontman Ricky Wilson, who also found wider fame as a judge on The Voice.

The group have released six studio albums, the most recent being Stay Together in 2016, and their hit songs include I Predict A Riot, Oh My God, Ruby, Never Miss A Beat and Coming Home.

Festival

The Kaiser Chiefs have become a hugely popular act on the festival circuit, having played the V Festival,

and also gigs at Cannock Chase and Warwick Castle. They will be playing Wolverhampton Racecourse on September 1 and tickets cost £39. Call 0844 2491000 or see the www.vmfestivals.co.uk website.

The racecourse has in recent years hosted concerts by UB40, Madness, McBusted and Human League.

The course has also announced another major concert this summer by Birmingham's Ocean Colour Scene on Friday, August 31, the day before the Kaisers' gig.

Young band aim for the big time

LOOKING to leap up the musical food chain are a group of young hopefuls called Jump the Shark.

With their roots firmly in Wolverhampton, they have five years of creativity behind them and see 2018 as the year they can finally make a splash in the big time, writes Leigh Sanders.

This four-piece alt-rock outfit have a schedule laid out they hope can push them forward in their quest for mainstream recognition. If their musical output can match the determination of frontwoman Tasha Jones, then it shouldn't be too difficult.

Independent

"We've got to the point now where people are contacting us for shows, people request us," she tells us. "We're trying to stretch out of the Midlands now, we tend to play a lot of independent venues and these opportunities come from working with other bands."

Nationwide acclaim is a long way from where the band started in 2012, jamming together in a music room they rented at Claregate Primary School.

Friends Theo Williams and Matt Gregory attended Thomas Telford School, and met Wolverhampton Girls' High pupil Tasha in social circles. The band was completed when they met St Edmunds pupil Jon Murphy through musical projects.

They've been part of a city that in recent years has been quietly spawning a scene that gives young aspiring rockers a platform.

"People have been really pushing the Wolverhampton scene," adds Tasha. "It seems really good, but some people are more supportive than others. Some seem to keep to themselves but we



Wolverhampton rock group Jump the Shark with their breakout Brit Award

push other bands a lot and support all our friends. We've created a playlist on Spotify of all our favourite music from other bands," which you can find by visiting their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JumptheSharkOfficial/

Back in 2015, they won the Young Brit Award for Best Newcomer and last year their single Sooner Said was again picked up by the Brits team and added to the awards show's official playlist.

They have had support slots for Little Comets, The Primitives and Irish group The Riptide Movement behind them, and this week were supporting Inheaven at the Newhampton Arts Centre. But Tasha has her eyes on bigger prizes.

"We want to hit the big festival stages," she says. "We think we can get bigger slots by getting our music more exposure."

They have been working with RML Studios at Newhampton Arts Centre and are looking towards the autumn to release their debut album, after three EPs. "It's just about time we did it," Tasha adds. "It will be cool to create a piece of art we can be proud of."

Tomorrow (Friday) Jump The Shark are at Birmingham's Actress & Bishop with Youth Man before backing up Nuns of the Tundra at the city's O2 Institute on March 3. You can follow the band on Twitter @JumptheSharkUK

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Black Country car cruise ban in force for three more years

Young female engineers take on challenge

AN all-female team of budding young inventors has teamed up with a global engineering giant as part of the MNA Stem Challenge 2018.

Aged 13 and 14, the team of six girls from Staffordshire University Academy in Hednesford has partnered with thyssenkrupp (UK) – the German steel group with a major operation at Cradley Heath.

Overseen by Midlands News Association, publishers of The Chronicle and the Express & Star, the STEM Challenge aims to boost pupil engagement in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths by bringing together 25 teams from schools across the Black Country, Shropshire and Staffordshire. They will pit their creative skills against one another at the final held at Dudley College.

The contest is also a prime opportunity for students to form valuable links in the world of industry, with each team paired with a representative from a business or organisation who acts as a mentor.

Get away! It's a talk on holiday changes



Speaker on the changing fashions in holidays will be Richard Bifield, former president of the Tourism Management Institute

THE Black Country Society has organised a lecture for Wednesday, February 28, at 7.30pm at The Portal, HQ of the Dudley Canal Trust on Birmingham New Road.

Richard Bifield will talk on 'The British on Holiday – From the Grand Tour to Mass Tourism'.

The speaker has made a study of culture and tourism. He is a past chairman of The Friends of Ironbridge Museum and a former National President of the Tourism Management Institute.

The lecture, as the title suggests, will focus on the momentous changes in holiday-making over the last couple of centuries. Non members are welcome. Admission is £2.

Fund fails to spark interest

NOT one council in the Black Country and Staffordshire has signed up for a Government-funded drive to install electric roadside charge points for motorists.

More than £4 million is available under the On-Street Residential Scheme, which was launched in 2016.

It offers money to pay for 75 per cent of any street charge point installation, granting up to £7,500 per charger.

However, no council in our region has taken advantage of the incentive – despite a 35 per cent increase in the sale of electric cars last year.

Offer

Only Portsmouth, Cambridge, Luton, Kettering and Kensington & Chelsea in London have taken up on the Government's offer.

Wolverhampton council says it has received almost £500,000 from Whitehall in a separate scheme to intro-

duce a charging point network over next three years.

A spokesman said: "We have longer-term aims to look at residential on-street charging points but we feel it is important we first focus our resources on getting the city centre infrastructure right before looking to expand the network."

Staffordshire County Council and Walsall Council said the funding offered was not enough to make the residential scheme viable.

Dudley Council and Sandwell Council said the scheme could be entered as part of a joint partnership with neighbouring authorities, and Dudley was expecting to take part in talks.

Sandwell councillor David Hosell, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "This funding is being discussed at a Black Country transport officers meeting later this month."

AN EXTENDED injunction banning car cruising in the Black Country for another three years has now come into force.

The injunction, first introduced in 2015, bans people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell or Walsall.

It also bans people from promoting, organising or publicising any such event in the four areas. Anyone breaching the injunction risks being in contempt of court, for which they can face up to two years in prison and a fine. They could also have assets – such as their vehicle – seized and crushed.

Report by David Cosgrove

The four Black Country boroughs and West Midlands Police successfully sought an extension to the injunction until February 1, 2021. This has been backed by the High Court.

Councillor Paul Sweet, cabinet member for public health and wellbeing in Wolverhampton, said: "Since its introduction in 2015, the injunction has helped to dramatically reduce the menace of car cruising across the Black Country."

"However, the problem has not been entirely eradicated and car cruises still occur in our region from time to time, sometimes with fatal consequences."

Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, cabinet member for governance, added: "We are pleased that the High Court has extended the injunction for a further three years, enabling the police and local councils to continue to crack down on car cruising."

The injunction defines car cruising as: "Two or more motor vehicles (including motorbikes) between the hours of 3pm and 7am being on a highway or in a publicly accessible place within the Black Country at which any such vehicle or occupant of a vehicle performs any of the prohibited activities."

Banned activities include speeding, driving in convoy, racing, stunts, sounding horns or playing music to cause significant public nuisance.



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Bust is star attraction as sale is hit with bidders

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



THIS month's Perry & Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles proved a great success, with some items selling well above their estimates.

The 'star' of the show was clearly the marble bust (pictured below) of Georgian politician Charles James Fox by famous sculptor Joseph Nollekin, which attracted bids from all over the country and overseas, eventually selling for £8,000 (its estimate was £500 to £800), but there was other items of note that sold very well indeed.



These included: Victorian dining table, sold for £940 (estimate £200 to £300), refectory telescope by Newton & Company (£500, £200 to £300), large collection of Royal Albert Old Country Rose teaware (£110, £70 to £100), collection of T Green and Company blue-banded Cornish kitchen ware (£90, £30 to £50).

Early 19th century Rockingham dessert service (£120, £50 to £80), signed photograph of Sean Connery and other James Bond memorabilia (£100, £40 to £60), 14 boxed model police cars by Die Cast Collectables (£90, £40 to £60), rare Salvatore Ferragamo silvered metal 'cage' handbag (£250, £250 to £500).

Five near-matching silver table spoons, various hallmarks, 19th century (£100, £80 to £120), three Georgian hallmarked silver table spoons (£70, £50 to £80), six silver dining forks, Kings pattern, 1868 (£80, £60 to £100).

Huntley and Palmers biscuit tin in the shape of a snake-skin handbag, together with a collection of other old tins (£75, £20 to £30), 85mm refectory telescope with 1,100mm body and seven ocular lenses (£500, £200 to £300).

Early country oak single-door hanging food cupboard (£150, £120 to £180), Victorian mahogany library bookcase (£420, £200 to £300), good quality Victorian pollard oak sideboard with dog-kennel base (£460, £300 to £500).

The sale was very well attended and we had a number of phone bidders, plus other bids made prior to the sale.

As always, we saw the unusual objects sell extremely well – the bust and the handbag were prime examples – and the good quality furniture always attracts some very healthy bidding.

*** The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles will take place at the Mill Street sale-room, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, April 3, from 10.30am.**

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

*** Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

Designers go to great lengths to protect styles



Striking – Louboutin shoes

NOT many of us will be lucky enough to own a pair of Louboutin shoes with their distinctive red soles but we are all very aware of their place in the design archives and our own wish lists.

Recently the French footwear designer went to court in the Netherlands to stop a Dutch company from using red soles on their own styles.

A colour cannot be registered as a trademark, the only thing that could be considered would be the shape of the sole.

The red Louboutin sole is instantly recognisable, but it is now possible that any brand of shoe could carry the red sole without contravening trademark law, a final verdict is yet to be decided.

Protective

Adidas strongly defends its three stripes. Recently Tesla tried to register a logo for their Model 3 electric car, a trio of horizontal bars, but Adidas contested the application stopping them from using the logo, specifically on clothing, Tesla then changing the logo to a numeric 3.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



Adidas are very protective and have filed over 50 lawsuits in the past 5 years, last month fighting sports competitor Puma when they launched a boot with four stripes – four stripes not three!

Adidas does not own the right to use any combination of stripes but it does have trademarks for using them in specific ways and actively police the marketplace, bringing legal cases on anyone they feel infringes their property.

For many years offshore manufacturers have copied high street brands, often it is difficult to see the difference.

But our border control police are constantly putting unacceptable product into quarantine to avoid it being available for sale on our high streets.

I'm sure most of us have bought counterfeit handbags and clothing while on holiday,

Michael Kors and Louis Vuitton two of the most popular, laid out on blankets at the local resorts ready to be pulled from beneath you when the local constabulary make an unannounced appearance.

We still hunt out these illegal sellers to impress our friends with the fake designer purchase when we return home and sadly most of us cannot tell the difference between the real and forgery.

Sales

Trademarks are so important to the brands who own them, they spend time finding a mark that defines them and then money to promote and advertise the product and increase their sales, it is no wonder they are so protective of them.

Online sales make it more difficult for us to check the provenance of our purchases.

Are you certain that the designer item you spent a months wages on is the real deal?

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Don't distract your colleagues unnecessarily when they are trying to work



Try and think about how your behaviour might impact on friends and work colleagues

How to avoid annoying your office colleagues



Personal calls at your desk can be rude

IF you're a self-confessed over-talker and your desk resembles a pigsty, chances are you're rubbing your colleagues up the wrong way by carrying out two of the top ten office annoyances.

The commercial property experts at LondonOffices.com have compiled a list of the top ten office annoyance that all employees should avoid if they don't want to irritate fellow staff members in the workplace.

Here is the list of the top ten office annoyances:

Unattractive smells

Smells and noises can be magnified when sitting in a confined office space, so be considerate when packing your lunch or snacks. Steer clear of any garlic and fish based meals if you're going to be eating at your desk, as well as particularly spicy or cheesy foods. Be sure to empty your bin regularly too, to avoid the stench of rotting foods. And what is possibly more annoying than a smelly colleague?

Dirty desks

Whilst it may not be your sole responsibility to keep the entire office spick and span, the condition of your own desk falls down to you and you only. If it's covered in a huge pile of unorganised papers and litter,

By Simon Stone

this may be distracting for your colleagues and become a major annoyance in the workplace. If you share a desk, be sure to clear away any personal items at the end of every day too, such as mugs and office supplies.

Over-talking

It's good to break away from your computer for five minutes to chat to your colleagues, but if they look deep in concentration or up to their ears in work then it might not be the best time to strike up a conversation.

Distracting colleagues

Your colleagues have their own work-related issues to worry about, without having to listen to yours being shouted around the office. Remember to talk quietly, as your voice travels further than you might think, and keep annoying habits such as tapping on the desk, fidgeting or getting up and down often to a minimum.

Tea and coffee rounds

Making yourself a cuppa without offering to get anybody else one isn't just annoying, but it could be perceived as being downright rude, particularly if you're quick to accept your colleagues' hot drink offers. Your workmates will quickly grow tired of the gesture not being reciprocated.

Timekeeping

There's only so many times you'll be let off the hook for turning up to work or a meeting late, and when people are constantly having to wait around for you, it won't be long before tempers start to flare.

Coughing and sneezing

You might think that you're showing commitment and dedication to your team by valiantly turning up to work despite nursing a horrible cold or bug, but the fact is germs spread like wildfire and your co-workers don't want to catch your illness, so stay in bed and recover.

Personal phone calls

Using your mobile for personal calls at your desk is hardly the politest of things to do, especially whilst your colleagues are hard at work around you. Making sure it's on silent at work is another important piece of phone etiquette.

Respecting boundaries

Remembering to respect your colleagues' boundaries – both physical and conversational – is essential to ensuring peace and harmony in the office.

Lunch thieves

You might think that stealing food without anyone noticing is the perfect crime, but remember that doing so will certainly ruin someone else's day..

MOTORING

**NEW REG
SPECIAL**

17
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018



**THIS ASPIRATIONAL MCLAREN MAY BE OUT OF THE REACH
OF MANY BUT CHECK OUT INSIDE FOR OUR COMMERCIAL
SPOTLIGHT ON CARS SUITABLE FOR ALL BUDGETS**

Sporty touches but a family lugger

By Ian Donaldson

Years before Peugeot bought Vauxhall earlier this year the two companies had been working together behind the scenes – on the car you're now looking at, for one.

Or looking at if you had X-ray eyes. For the new Vauxhall Grandland X appears nothing like Peugeot's recent 3008 but beneath their unalike metalwork is more or less the same car.

Same platform (the really expensive bit to design), same engines and same factory – they're both built in France. Starting from pretty well the same price too; £22,495 Peugeot plays £22,310 Vauxhall.



There's plenty of space for luggage



Smart dashboard with proper switches!

1.2 litre petrol and a 1.6 litre with the same bhp but much more pulling power, as is the way with diesels.

Automatic transmissions are optional with either.

Willing

Vauxhall thinks most buyers will take the petrol route, where they'll find a willing power unit that takes the Grandland X to 117mph and to 62mph in 11.1 seconds, while returning an official 52.3mpg and 124g/km in the official tests.

Take a dearer diesel and those figures are 117mph and 11.8 seconds – much the same as the petrol model, but with much better promised economy at 70.6mpg average and less pollution too, with 104g/km.

Whichever engine you choose there's quite a bit of car to pull along, measuring 4,477mm long. A benefit is a boot that takes 514 litres with the rear seats in place and a more than useful 1,652 with them folded.



The car looks neat and modern and does its job well in transporting a growing family

But you must open a door and slip behind the wheel to discover the biggest difference between the Peugeot and Vauxhall approach to family motoring with dashboards that show divergent design philosophies.

Where the Peugeot is an exercise in button denying modernity the Grandland X looks more conventionally smart, with less pressing of fingers on screens and more physical contact with switches.

And all the better for it, I'd say, as you try to adjust the radio to knock the cabin temperature down a degree or two. Out on the road the Grandland X feels anything but sporty, the petrol engine doing its best and staying quietly in the background but a long way from inspiring you to take the long way home.

Should you encounter slippery roads on the way there's an option of IntelliGrip traction control that does its best to mimic four-wheel drive by managing the power going to the front wheels; there won't be a 4x4 because the customers don't want it, says Vauxhall.



Vauxhall thinks most buyers will take the petrol route

Car of mum and dad!

Ferrying family from one social engagement to another may be part of the job description, but it seems for some parents, it's almost a full-time occupation.

New research has found the average parent spends 286 hours a year driving their kids around – almost two months' working days.

If their journeys were on meter, that would earn them a whopping £9.8k a year.

The survey, which polled 2,000 parents for Vauxhall Motors, found that parents could take a road trip to sunny Lisbon for the equivalent of the 1,283 annual miles that they drive their kids on average. But it's not just heading from A to B; parents spend an average of two working days a year simply waiting for their children in cars.

And not all trips are to the tune of "are we there yet?"; half (49 per cent) of parents use journeys to have a laugh with their kids and more than two fifths (44 per cent) say they enjoy the bonding time it offers.

Almost a third (31 per cent) admit that the moments spent in a car with their kids affords them quality time they wouldn't get elsewhere.

But it seems that both parties get fuelled up over the music choices with a quarter (25 per cent) claiming the selection of tunes is the top in-car discussion. The research revealed that car journeys are also a great way for parents to find out more about their kids.

For both children and parents alike, playground chat is the top thing to natter about with almost half (48 per cent) discussing the latest gossip at school, sixth form or college.

A fifth (22 per cent) of parents use car journeys as an opportunity to eavesdrop on their kids' 'private' chats and one in six (17 per cent) say it's a good opportunity to quiz kids about their love life, with nowhere for them to run!

Quality

TV presenter and Dad of two, Jeff Brazier comments: "I definitely do my fair share of ferrying the kids around, but it's fascinating to see how many hours of your life it actually takes up.

"It might seem like a chore at time, but it's true that those journeys are precious moments of quality time that you'll never get back."

Denis Chick, director of communications at Vauxhall Motors, added: "As a father of three, I've spent countless hours behind the wheel at the mercy of my children. At Vauxhall, we celebrate the small moments that make life brilliant.

"And family bonding time during a car trip epitomises just that."

The results show that while parenting really is a full-time job, the Cab of Mum and Dad is an important



Some parents spend 286 hours a year driving their children around – and Grandland X is ideal

bonding experience between parents and their kids – and it's these moments that create priceless memories to make it all worthwhile.

The research supports the launch of Vauxhall Motors' newest player in the SUV car park, the Grandland X.

The Grandland X is the largest SUV in Vauxhall's range with seating for five people, generous luggage space and a raft of technology, including WiFi for up to seven devices.

It's priced from £22,310 on-the-road.

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Finance Deposit Allowance	Annual Mileage	6,000 p.a.
Amount of Credit		
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4.2% APR
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Vauxhall
Grandland X 1.2 SE 5dr

Representative Finance Example:	Cost of Credit	£2,303.06
On the Road Price	Duration of Agreement	48 months
47 Monthly Payments of	Optional Final Payment	£9,143.00
Customer Deposit CASH OR P/X	Total Amount Payable	£23,091.06
Finance Deposit Allowance	Annual Mileage	6,000 p.a.
Amount of Credit		
Interest		

4.2% APR
REPRESENTATIVE*



Vauxhall
Insignia Grand Sport 1.5T (165) Design 5dr

Representative Finance Example:	Duration of Agreement	48 months
On the Road Price	Optional Final Payment	£6,902.00
47 Monthly Payments of	Total Amount Payable	£19,159.85
Customer Deposit CASH OR P/X	Annual Mileage	6,000 p.a.
Amount of Credit		
Interest		
Cost of Credit		

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 127 (22.3) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km. Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. * Worcester Carsales Limited, T/A Stourbridge Motor House, Dudley Motor Company, Halesowen Motor House and T Wall Garages, can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you. Offers subject to availability. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition and mileage of the vehicle. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, CF15 7YT. Applicants must be 18 years or over and UK resident (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Deposit shown for illustrative purposes; with lower deposits monthly payments will be higher.

Hyundai supporting FIFA World Cup

Hyundai has announced the Go! SE range to support its sponsorship of this year's FIFA World Cup in Russia. The Go! SE will run across four model ranges, i10, i20, i30 Hatchback and Tourer and Tucson.

The Go! SE range features a high level of standard equipment, including satellite navigation and alloy wheels, as well as an exclusive Go! SE cloth upholstery design and Go! body emblems. The Go! SE models are available in a number of colours, including an all new colour, Champion Blue (metallic).

Equipment

The i10 Go! SE 1.0 66PS 5 speed manual is based on the i10 SE. Priced from £11,285, only a £495 premium over the base SE, the i10 Go! SE offers additional exterior equipment including 14" alloy wheels, gloss black door mirrors, privacy glass and black side body moulding. Interior equipment includes a 7" touchscreen navigation with Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™, leather steering wheel and gear knob, black headlining and Go! SE cloth upholstery. The i10 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Stardust Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid).

Available from £14,355, the i20 Go! SE 1.2 84PS 5 speed manual is again only a £495 premium over the i20 SE 5 door but brings equipment enhancements including a new design 15" alloy wheel, gloss black door mirrors, privacy glass, black side body mouldings, projection headlamps, LED daytime running lamps and 1.0 T-GDi style radiator grille. Interior additions for the i20 Go! SE includes 7" touchscreen navigation, black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery



The i10 Go! offers additional equipment



Hyundai's i30 Go! is based on the i30 SE Nav model

and centre console armrest. Additional equipment includes automatic headlamps and rain sensing wipers and an auto dimming rear view mirror. The i20 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Stardust Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid).

Next in the Go! SE range is the i30 Go! SE 1.0 T-GDi 120PS 6 speed manual, which is available in Hatchback or Tourer body styles

from £20,100 and £20,600 respectively. The i30 Go! SE is based upon the i30 SE Nav model, with significant specification enhancements including the 17" alloy wheels and front bumper from i30 Fastback, gloss black door mirrors and privacy glass. Interior equipment additions include black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery and climate control with dual zone operation. The i30 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue



The Tucson Go! SE is available with power train options

(metallic), Micron Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid).

Finally, from £24,300, the Tucson Go! SE is based on Tucson SE Nav specification, with additional external equipment including a new design 19" alloy wheel, gloss black door mirrors and privacy glass.

Interior equipment additions include black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery and dark silver interior facia accents. Tucson

Go! SE also features automatic rain sensing windscreen wipers and an auto dimming rear view mirror. The Tucson Go! SE is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Micron Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid), as well as 4 different power train options, 1.6 T-GDi 177PS 6 speed manual 2WD, 1.6 T-GDi 177PS 7 speed DCT 2WD, 1.7 CRDi 116PS 6 speed manual 2WD or 1.7 CRDi 141PS 7 speed DCT 2WD.

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Hyundai i10 Special Edition GO 1.0 5dr

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With £500 Deposit Contribution*



Hyundai i20 Special Edition GO 1.2 5dr

15" Alloys - Privacy glass - LED daytime running lamps - Touchscreen Satellite Navigation (7") including Rear View Camera - Air Con

£199^{.94} DEPOSIT* **£199^{.94}** PER MONTH*

With £500 Deposit Contribution*

Representative example: Hyundai i10 Special Edition 1.0 Go Se 5dr



Hyundai Tucson Special Edition GO 1.7 Crdi Blue Drive 5dr

19" Alloys - Privacy glass - Touchscreen Satellite Navigation (8") Climate Control Apple CarPlay™ - Android Auto™

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for the range of cars shown are: Highest: HYUNDAI Tucson 1.6 T-GDi 4WD, DCT7, Urban 30.7 (9.2), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5), Combined 37.7 (7.5), CO₂ Emissions 175. Lowest: HYUNDAI i10 1.0i Blue Drive, M5, Urban 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 70.6 (4.0), CO₂ Emissions 93. These official EU test figures are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.*T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Hyundai Finance, RH1 1SR. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Part exchange the vehicle; (ii) Pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value) to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess Mileage will be charged at the rate of 7.5 pence (+VAT) for the first 5,000 miles and at twice that rate thereafter. Hyundai Birmingham West is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offers correct at time of publication, E&OE.

Fiesta partys on and EcoSport on roll

Ford's Fiesta is Britain's favourite – a best-seller for more than 40 years and still number one with the car buying public.

To date it has notched up more than 16 million buyers, and the latest model is still winning awards.

That makes it the ideal platform on which to base another new model, the EcoSport, which competes in the fast-growing SUV market. Both have been updated and improved in recent months.

Since it first appeared in 1976, the Fiesta has gone through seven generations of improvements making it bigger, better equipped and safer, with petrol and diesel engines to suit whether you want better than 88mpg economy of the 75PS diesel or the award-winning 1.0 petrol turbo, capable of 0 to 62mph in under ten seconds and of averaging 65mpg. A 200Ps high performance Fiesta ST is on the way, too.

A wide range of trim levels ensures that there is a Fiesta to suit every pocket, right up to the Vignale flagship, bringing new levels of luxury to the supermini class.

The latest model has already carried off coveted awards including Carbuyer's Car of the Year, BBC TopGear magazine's Supermini of the Year and Best Budget car at the Women's World Car of the Year awards.

These successes come hot on the heels of What Car? magazine's award for the outgoing Ford Fiesta Best Small Car in its Used Car of the Year Awards.

Car-review website editor Stuart Milne said: "It is Britain's favourite car year in, year out, and the latest Ford Fiesta is the best yet. It looks great inside and out and packs plenty of big-car features into its compact dimensions. Buyers can choose from tremendous audio



The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs

upgrades, autonomous driving features and levels of luxury in the top-spec Vignale – unthinkable a few years ago.

"The new Fiesta boasts more interior space and safety kit than ever before, plus it is a fantastically fun car to drive. With attributes like this, it is no wonder we have named the new Ford Fiesta Carbuyer Car of the Year 2018."

The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs, and comes with a bold new look, new equipment and a revised suspension to give drivers an improved ride and handling. There's more choice in the range, too, with the addition of

a new 1.5 litre EcoBlue turbo diesel engine and, with that, the option of Ford's Intelligent All-Wheel Drive system, which can adjust the torque split between the axles to the extent that 50 per cent is directed to the rear almost instantaneously.

The 1.5-litre EcoBlue diesel engine is designed to deliver higher power for improved performance, alongside reduced CO2 emissions – as low as 107g/km.

It also shares the 1.0 litre, 125Ps turbocharged petrol engine as the Fiesta, boosted to 140Ps in the sportily-trimmed ST-Line – another addition to the range.

The new EcoSport delivers driver assistance



Ford Fiesta has been a best-seller for more than 40 years

technologies including SYNC 3 connectivity, cruise control with adjustable speed-limiter and rear view camera.

The new model comes in 12 bold colours and offers even more personalisation options – including contrasting painted roof colour options that extend to the window pillars, upper door frames, rear roof spoiler and door mirrors.

A user-centric, upscale new interior offers a superior occupant experience with floating central eight-inch touchscreen, heated steering wheel and smart stowage solutions including an adjustable boot floor.

The interior features a host of smart stowage

solutions, including a new height adjustable boot floor that can be raised to provide concealed storage, or lowered to increase luggage capacity to 334 litres.

The boot floor uses a special honeycomb construction that makes it gramme-for-gramme stronger than steel, and able to support more than 300 kg.

A new centre console features a built-in folding, sliding passenger armrest with a storage compartment ideal for tablet computers or snacks, and the CD-player is relocated to a new position above the glovebox to minimise impact on storage space.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the New Ford EcoSport range: urban 39.2-62.7 (7.2-4.5), extra urban 56.4-74.3 (5.0-3.8), combined 48.7-68.8 (5.8-4.1). Official CO₂ emissions 134-107g/km.

The mpg figures quoted, sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Pricing and specifications for MG ZS

By James Parker

MG has announced pricing and specifications for its new ZS compact SUV.

Starting from £12,495, the Chinese-built model is available with zero-per cent finance and a seven-year, 80,000-mile manufacturer warranty that is transferable to any owner during the period.

Engines

Two petrol engines and gearboxes are available for the car. The entry-level motor is a 1.5-litre developing 105bhp and 141Nm of torque, paired to a five-speed manual gearbox, taking the ZS from 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds and up to a top speed of 109mph. Fuel economy is claimed 49.6mpg with CO2 emissions of 129g/km.

The second engine is a turbocharged 1.0-litre that produces 109bhp and 160Nm of torque which, coupled with a six-speed automatic gearbox, can take the ZS from 0-60mph in 12.1 seconds and to a top speed of 112mph. As for efficiency, fuel economy is claimed at 44.9mpg with 144g/km of CO2 emissions.

Three trim levels make up the ZS range — Explore, Excite and Exclusive. Standard equipment on all trims includes LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth connectivity and cruise control.

The range-topping Exclusive model features 17-inch alloy wheels, leather-style upholstery and an eight-inch touchscreen infotainment system that includes Apple CarPlay, satellite navigation and a reverse parking camera. Exclusive models are available from £17,495.



There are three trim levels in the range



Clear statement about quality

Matthew Cheyney, head of sales and marketing for MG, said: "With the introduction of a seven-year warranty, we are making a clear statement of intent about the quality of our design, engineering and manufacturing."

"Our goal is to deliver hassle-free motoring in stylish cars that stand up to the toughest of challenges."



MG's goal is to deliver hassle-free motoring in stylish cars that stand up to the toughest of challenges

3

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MGZS fuel consumption: URBAN 41.0 mpg | 6.9 l/100km, EXTRA URBAN 58.9 mpg | 4.8 l/100km, COMBINED 49.6 mpg | 5.7 l/100km, CO2 Emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: MG ZS Exclusive manual with Tri Coat paint (optional extra £695) in Dynamic Red at £16,190 OTR or £215.87 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. Offer shown available on MG Exclusive manual with solid paint at £15,495 OTR or £199 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months 'Vehicle Excise Duty'. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply. *0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG ZS models until 31.03.18. A minimum deposit of 20% applies. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YI, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

SUMMIT GARAGE is acting as a credit broker and not a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received.

*Available on Excite and Exclusive models

Dual celebrations for Startin Honda

West Midlands-based car dealer, Startin Honda Stourbridge, is celebrating this year by not only turning twenty, but launching two significant models this month.

With two sites, in Worcester and Stourbridge, the dealership has grown into Worcestershire's top performing Honda franchise.

The latest two Honda models will help firmly cement the newest of the Honda duo dealerships, Startin Honda of Stourbridge site, in to the locality.

This weekend there is a VIP event in the showroom. If you're looking for an extra special deal on a new Honda with lucrative support from Honda UK ... this may be the place to get it - Startin Honda Stourbridge.

Discount

"For customers who work within the emergency services such as nurses, the military or civil servants (including retired ones), Startin Honda has even more up the sleeve in terms of discount and we'd really encourage you to get in touch," said Roy Tyler - sales manager.

Startin Honda has just released the hugely anticipated Honda Jazz 1.5 i-VTEC Sport Grade and the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Diesel version.

The Jazz is a huge favorite and one thing that Jazz fans have been looking forward to is a Sports edition with a bit more power. This all new 2018 model has the 1.5 i-VTEC that's already fitted into the larger Honda HR-V. The 130ps will absolutely give the car a little extra performance and fun. Notwithstanding the new styling, LED headlights, sporty bumpers, black wheels and further neat detailing inside and out. It's a real looker. A compact car that's fun to drive and bursting with energy.



The new Jazz

The new Jazz Sport delivers exhilarating performance to match its fresh new look, without replacing its practical nature or hurt its economy. Combined CO2 figures are a lowly 133 g/km and a combined fuel economy of 55.4mpg is impressive.

The second model to be launched this weekend is the latest Honda Civic (over 22,000,000 Civics sold worldwide so far) with the addition of the new 1.6 i-DTEC engine. This builds on the cars already popular and award winning line up by adding fuel economy and diesel power to those that are diesel fans and those in the corporate



Honda's latest Civic is launched this weekend at the dealership

sector looking for low CO2 cars. The very latest Honda diesels are cleaner than many petrol cars offering only 93g/km of CO2 and a staggering 80.7 mpg on the combined cycle!

Startin Honda is owned by parent company, Startin Group, which has been trading for more than 179 years.

Originally set up as a coach builder in 1840, the company has now grown into one of the

UK's largest privately-owned motor dealership groups.

Tim Freeman, dealer principal at Startin Honda, commented: "We are extremely proud to have been working with the Honda brand for the last twenty years.

"Honda embodies everything we try to implement here at Startin in terms of innovation and expertise. We couldn't have

had a better year to celebrate this milestone with the launch of the all-new Honda Civic diesel and the Honda Jazz Sport.

"We're looking forward to continuing our successful partnership with Honda and celebrating another twenty years!"

To find out more about Startin Honda, or to book a test drive, visit www.startingroup.co.uk/honda





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Every inch of the new Honda Civic captures the spirit of Honda thinking. From the pioneering VTEC and i-DTEC engines, to the advanced safety technology that comes as standard. In fact, whichever way you look at the new Civic, you'll see more change than ever before.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic EX 1.6 i-DTEC Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 78.5mpg (3.6L/100km), Extra Urban 83.1mpg (3.4L/100km), Combined 80.7mpg (3.5L/100km). CO2 emissions: 93g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Model Shown: Civic EX 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Rallye Red at £24,925 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic i-DTEC ordered from 01 February 2018 to 31 March 2018 and registered by 31 March 2018. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available.

Quality, technology and capability

By James Parker

The new Ford EcoSport compact sports utility vehicle (SUV) delivers enhanced versatility and capability, more refined styling and sophisticated technologies for customers in Europe.

The new Ford EcoSport for the first time offers Ford Intelligent All Wheel Drive technology for improved traction on- and off-road, combined with an advanced new 1.5-litre EcoBlue diesel engine, delivering up to 125 PS and optimised CO2 emissions.

Also available for the first time as a sporty, Ford Performance-inspired EcoSport ST-Line model, the new Ford EcoSport delivers driver assistance technologies including SYNC 3 connectivity, Cruise Control with Adjustable Speed Limiter and Rear View Camera.

Featuring enhanced dynamic, rugged and refined exterior styling, the new model is offered in 12 bold colours and offers even more personalisation options – including contrasting painted roof colour options that extend to the window pillars, upper door frames, rear roof spoiler and door mirrors. A user-centric, upscale new interior offers a superior occupant experience with floating central 8-inch touchscreen, heated steering wheel and smart stowage solutions including an adjustable boot floor.

"Ford has sold more than 166,000 EcoSport compact SUVs in Europe since we first introduced the model to the region in 2014, and last year sales grew 40 per cent," said Steven Armstrong, group vice president and president, Europe Middle East and Africa, Ford Motor Company. "The new Ford EcoSport offers customers even more style, comfort, capability and choice – blending



The car has bold, dynamic styling

rugged SUV functionality with city car practicality."

The SUV segment is the fastest growing in Europe. Registrations of SUV models grew by more than 21 per cent year-on-year to account for more than one quarter of all new passenger car registrations in 2016. Last year, Ford's SUV sales in Europe grew by more than 30 per cent. In the UK, over 40,000 EcoSports have been sold since its original introduction in 2013, with the Titanium model reaching 70 per cent of sales.

The new Ford EcoSport will deliver an optimised driving experience equipped with Ford Intelligent All Wheel Drive from mid-2018. The technology will be offered in combination with the all-new 1.5-litre Ford EcoBlue diesel engine and a six-speed manual gearbox, delivering 125 PS and 300 Nm of torque.

Intelligent All Wheel Drive measures how the car's wheels are gripping the road surface and can adjust torque delivery up to 50/50



New Ford EcoSport offers more style, comfort, capability and choice

between the front and rear wheels in under 20 milliseconds – 20 times quicker than it takes to blink. The system seamlessly transitions torque between all four wheels and provides a more secure footing on the road especially in slippery conditions.

The new Ford EcoSport features bold, dynamic Ford SUV styling, reflecting that the Kuga and Edge, EcoSport now also delivers a new level of interior refinement which includes easier to use controls and

soft-touch materials, and a new centre console ergonomically designed for easy operation and featuring fewer buttons.

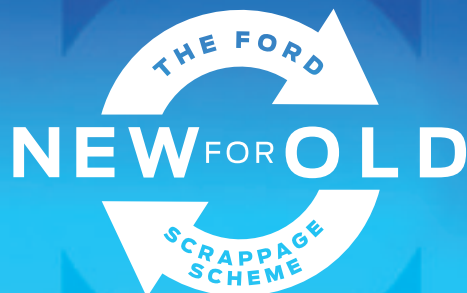
The new EcoSport line-up will for the first time include the sporty new EcoSport ST-Line variant, joining the Edge ST-Line, Fiesta ST-Line, Focus ST-Line, Kuga ST-Line, Mondeo ST-Line and S-MAX ST-Line models that offer bold styling and sports-tuned driving dynamics alongside powerful and efficient EcoBoost petrol and TDCi diesel engines.

Ford's sophisticated SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto™. SYNC 3 is supported by EcoSport's floating, 8-inch colour touchscreen, which can be operated with pinch and swipe gestures.

Also offered with SYNC 3 is a floating 6.5-inch colour touchscreen.

A 4.2-inch colour screen is offered in combination with Bluetooth connectivity and two USB inputs.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Focus ST-Line range: urban 33.2-67.3 (5.6-4.3), extra urban 60.1-83.1 (4.7-3.4), combined 46.3-74.3 (6.1-3.8). Official CO2 emissions 140-99g/km.

The mpg figures quoted, sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 715/2007), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. *If you trade in any Car or Commercial Vehicle that is registered up to and including 31st December 2010 you can receive between £2,000 and £4,950 (Inc. VAT) Scrappage saving off the Recommended On The Road Price of a New Ford Car. Offer available on All-New Fiesta (Excl. Style), B-MAX (Titanium/Titanium X Navigator only), Focus (Excl. ST & RS), C-MAX, Grand C-MAX and Kuga models only. New Ford cars must be contracted between 1st January and 31st March 2018 (the "Contract Date") and registered between 1st January and 30th September 2018. Scrappage vehicle must have been registered to the customer for at least 90 days before the customer's Contract Date. Customer savings of £2,000 to £4,950 (Inc. VAT) available dependent on model line. Offer not available in conjunction with any other customer saving programme. Available to retail customers only (Excl. Privilege and Ambassador). Please see ford.co.uk/scrappage for more information.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU – JASON HITS THE ROAD

INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + PUZZLES + TV GUIDE

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Red House Glass Cone has lots of activities to keep you busy over the half term, daily glassmaking demonstrations inside our hot glass studio and a family trail across the site.

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I'll share secrets of my showbiz life

Aussie heartthrob Jason Donovan won't pull any punches when he lines up at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday to talk about His Amazing Midlife Crisis.

The man who shot to fame in Neighbours, dated Kylie, had the best-selling album of 1989 and thrilled vast West End audiences in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – before starring on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Strictly Come Dancing – will be starring in his first spoken word show.

Not that fans will be deprived of the hits. Jason will be performing a selection of his biggest songs in an acoustic setting.

And nothing will be off limits when he takes to the stage for the 90-minute show – including his relationships, his former cocaine habit and more.

"I'm really looking forward to doing this tour. It's something new, something I've not done before and something that the fans are looking forward to.

"There'll be music, there'll be stories, there'll be things people have never seen before and there'll be the chance for them to interact. It's a real up-close-and-personal sort of show. I can't wait."

Jason will reflect on his time in Neighbours during the show, chatting about his time as Scott Robinson and explaining how that character still travels with him.

"When we were on the Ten Good Reasons tour, we had a massive show at Hammersmith. There was a lot of expectation with it being the London show. We asked Kylie if she could come and join us but she wasn't around.

"Then, sitting with the crew in catering one night, someone said 'Have you thought about getting a labrador on stage?' They were referencing Bouncer from Neighbours, of course.

"We all laughed and thought it would be a funny idea to introduce someone that was petite and blonde, one of the members of the Neighbours cast – and then Bouncer walks on. So we'd teased everyone that it might be Kylie, but actually Bouncer turned up.

"Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult. It's not like you can audition a dog. And let me tell you, hiring a dog isn't cheap. Anyway, we booked a Bouncer lookalike.

"And then we got a call on the day of the show to say that Lookalike Bouncer was ill so they were sending an identical Stunt Lookalike Bouncer. Suddenly Bouncer had turned from a meat eating well rounded canine to a slim and petite Jenny Craig lookalike.

"Anyway the dog came on stage WITH its owner which wasn't what I expected, I had thought the dog would wander on and over to me. But it didn't. It forgot it was supposed to be Bouncer and started being a sniffer dog wondering if there were any treats in the stage."

Jason has spent a lifetime in the public eye and has learned to deal with fame. And in Jason Donovan and His Amazing Midlife Crisis he will explain how he's handled it.

"I never got into this business to be famous. It was a by-product of what I do, what I'm passionate about. However, that's not to say I

haven't enjoyed most parts of my fame.

Look I came from Australia, where it was relatively calm, and then I came here and it was insane.

"I found Joseph particularly challenging because of the workload, being in a theatre and the responsibilities of leading a cast eight shows a week. It was really claustrophobic. But other things happen and you start to not take this whole game too seriously. Today I can deal with it but back then I found the intensity of it all difficult."

Jason will also talk about his rebellious 1990s, when he went off the rails. "The 90s was about rebellion. You find a lot of famous people rebel against their own image particularly if they've feel like they can't even control their own image. I was trying to be cool in the 90s, but in fact I came to realise there is no such thing as cool, no such thing."

"I had photographers chasing me around the world. It was just mad. There were people following me into the toilet to get an autograph."

These days, Jason is happily married with three kids and likes to

Too many broken hearts – Jason reveals all about his past



Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult

combine work with downtime, so that he can spend time with his family. He'll talk about their importance and the way they help him to keep his feet on the ground.

"As long as the kids are getting tickets to Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Beyoncé, Coldplay or Chainsmokers through my contacts, then they're happy. There are some great moments that come about because of doing this. It was incredible meeting Prince William at a Gary Barlow show, for instance."

"And the reaction from Strictly was amazing. I think the kids were embarrassed when I signed up for that – but as soon as I started winning they didn't think it was so bad after all."

● Jason will also take his show to Telford's Oakengates Theatre on May 8 and Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on May 9.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



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FATHER'S DAY
by Eric Chappell

Bitter divorcé Henry is enjoying another night of glorious solitude. He is soon disturbed by the unwelcome appearance of his son Matthew with his new, unappealing, punk/goth girlfriend, and sparks soon fly — but this is just the beginning. Next to arrive is Henry's ex-wife, Sue, and before long he is facing some important decisions. Father's Day is a warm and touching comedy based on Eric Chappell's hit TV series "Home to Roost".

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The Winslow Boy at the Rep



Tessa's no fool to take on role in play about justice

IT WAS written just after the Second World War. But Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* feels as relevant today as it must have done back then.

With its themes of honesty and honour – allied to an imperfect justice system – it still resonates.

The latest revival of the play is heading to Birmingham Rep from February 21 to March 3 and is being directed by the Rep's former artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh, starring Tessa Peake-Jones, best known for *Only Fools and Horses*, and Aden Gillett.

It focuses on the story of a young man, Ronnie Winslow, who is expelled from the Royal Navy College for stealing a five-shilling postal order. His entire family are pulled apart by the repercussions.

Set in Edwardian London, the Winslow family fight to clear his name or face social ostracism as the case becomes a national scandal. Based on a real-life event, *The Winslow Boy* is a window into the class and political hypocrisy of the time.

"It's about family. Do they rally round?" said Tessa, who plays the boy's mother. "Grace, my character, has a real meltdown and wonders why they are going on with it. They are losing money all the time on the court case with huge solicitors' bills. She finds it hard to justify it and she has a point."

"But it's a moral dilemma. Do you give in because it's easier to give in and live a quiet life and don't make a fuss. Or, do you fight on, morally, because you want to prove a point. I think it's still very relevant today."

Sunjay sings the blues at folk gig

Up-and-coming blues and folk musician Sunjay is playing a gig in Kingswinford next week.

Described as the the antithesis of your typical denim-clad, dishevelled folk and blues musician, Sunjay, pictured, has perfectly groomed hair, shining winkle picker boots and looks every inch the city slicker. However, when the Stourbridge man starts to play the guitar and sing, music fans are transported to a world where blues and country music meld seamlessly amidst humid mangrove swamps.

He will play at The Woodman

Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, tomorrow night (Friday).

Sunjay's earliest memories are, as a four-year old, learning Buddy Holly songs from his dad. During 2017, Sunjay played Buddy Holly, in Simon Fielder's travelling theatre show of Buddy Holly & The Crickets, a role he was offered when he went for an audition in London as a backing singer and guitarist. He recently released an album *Sunjay Sings Buddy*.

Next Sunjay, whose full name is Sunjay Brain, is supporting folk stars Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman on a UK tour, which

comes to the Midland Arts Centre in Edgbaston on April 19.

He has also recorded a new album of his own songs to be released later this year.

Still only in his mid-20s, Sunjay has become a master guitarist, who has crafted his show to perfection.

An evening with Sunjay is an evening of exquisite blues, country and folk combined with a master class in guitar playing interspersed with hilarious anecdotes – and even the occasional Buddy Holly song.

The Kingswinford gig starts at 8.30pm. Tickets are £7 and £8. For more details call (01384) 560462.



Say Hello to jazz singer Irit at Glee

Israeli jazz singer Irit will showcase her new album *Hello* at Birmingham's Glee Club on Monday. The songwriter, pictured, who is also an actress and a former soldier, toured last year with Caro Emerald. Other key gigs: Tomorrow (Friday), Birmingham indie rockers JAWS at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton; Saturday, Grimsby rockers The Brew at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms; Sunday, veteran prog rock band Curved Air with Sonja Kristina at the Robin 2 in Bilston.



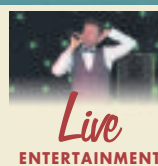
House full for CBSO at Symphony Hall

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has one of its busiest weeks coming up with a series of major concerts at Symphony Hall as part of its 2017-18 season.

The highlight is Saturday's sold-out performance of Carmina Burana with the CBSO Symphony Orchestra, chorus and children's chorus united under the baton of Michael Seal. That's after Freddy Kempf gets his chance to shine during Grieg's Piano Concerto. Kempf will also be performing that piece during today's (Thursday's) matinee performance with Elgar's First Symphony.

Next Thursday evening, February 22, Leo McFall will conduct the CBSO for Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet and Paul Lewis will be at the keys for Brahms' volcanic First Piano Concerto. See www.thsh.co.uk

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Wed 21st
Thur 22nd
Fri 23rd
Sat 24th
Sun 25th
Mon 26th
Tue 27th
Wed 28th

Alex Plus Disco
James Wythes
Starmakers Karaoke
Bens Nig Night Out
Predators Karaoke
Chad White
Starmakers Karaoke
Lucas Adams
Dave Golding
Starmakers Karaoke
Bens Disco & Karaoke
Predators Karaoke
Alex



MARCH WHAT'S ON

Thur 1st
Fri 2nd
Sat 3rd
Sun 4th
Mon 5th
Tues 6th
Wed 7th
Thur 8th
Fri 9th
Sat 10th
Sun 11th
Mon 12th
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Sun 25th
Mon 26th
Tues 27th
Wed 28th
Thur 29th
Fri 30th
Sat 31st

Starmakers Karaoke
Faye Horn
The Disco Disciples
Starmakers Karaoke
Bens Disco & Karaoke
Predators Karaoke
Tyler Jon
Starmakers Karaoke
Nina Plus Disco
Ariana Grande Tribute
Starmakers Karaoke
Bens Disco & Karaoke
Predators Karaoke
Adrian Michaels
Starmakers Karaoke
Meatloaf Tribute
Charlie Waterford
Starmakers Karaoke
Bens Disco & Karaoke
Predators Karaoke
Chad White
Starmakers Karaoke
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CHOICE



Louis Hunter

Troy: Fall of a City (BBC1, 9.10pm)
New series. A encounter with the gods binds the fate of young herdsman Paris to that of his home city of Troy, and when he is granted the honour of visiting Sparta as a guest of King Menelaus, he falls in love with the beautiful queen Helen, with far-reaching consequences that threaten to bring an empire to its knees. David Farr's historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Bella Dayne, Jonas Armstrong, David Threlfall, Frances O'Connor, David Gyasi, Joseph Mawle, Johnny Harris, Tom Weston-Jones, Chloe Pirrie, Aimee-Ffion Edwards, Alex Lanipekun, Alfred Enoch and David Avery.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News. Weather. 1.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Continued coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30 Final Score. 5.25 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 And They're Off** for Sport Relief.
6.25 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts as Jayne Torvill, Clare Balding, Jenny Jones, Amy Williams, Graham Bell, Rhona Howie and more compete in a Winter Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.
7.15 All Together Now. Rob Beckett gives another selection of vocalists take to the stage, hoping to impress the 100-strong panel of judges enough to get them to sing along with their performance. This time, the would-be stars tickle Pharrell Williams' ubiquitous hit Happy, Climb Every Mountain from The Sound of Music and Skyfall from the 007 film of the same name. The experts are also encouraged to join in with renditions of 1970s classics in the form of Candi Staton's Young Hearts Run Free and the Jackson 5's Who's Loving You.
8.20 Casually. Ethan plans to deal with surplus patients by sending them to a Clinical Decisions Unit, but this fails to roll the Rage in Resus blogger, who continues to expose the ED's faults.
9.10 Troy: Fall of a City. New series. An encounter between a Trojan herdsman and the queen of Sparta sparks a conflict that brings an empire to its knees.
10.10 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update.
10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round matches, which included Brighton & Hove Albion v Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion v Southampton.
11.35 Live at the Apollo. Adam Hills hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Andi Osho and Terry Alderton. (R)
12.20 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Continued coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. 12.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15 Escape to the Country. 1.45 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. 2.15 Film: The Third Man.** (1949) Thriller, starring Joseph Cotten and Orson Welles. **4.00 Flog It! (R) 4.45 Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) 5.45 Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good. (R)**
6.15 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall follows the fortunes of a small buzzard family, and tracks salmon migrating upstream as his wildlife tour takes him to Dartmoor.
7.15 Winter Olympics - Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the eighth day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. New series. The naturalist continues to explore the secrets behind evolution, this time focusing on the animal kingdom's bizarre hybrids, including the "pizzly bear". Previously seen on W.
8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. (R)
9.00 QI XL. An extended edition in which Bill Bailey, Colin Lane and Desiree Burch join regular panellist Alan Davies to answer host Sandi Toksvig's questions on the theme "Overseas".
9.45 Imagine - Mel Brooks: Unwrapped. Alan Yentob travels to Hollywood to interview Mel Brooks, the comedy actor, writer, producer and director who turned 91 last year. At the time of filming, the musical theatre version of Brooks' 1974 comedy horror Young Frankenstein has just opened on London's West End. Yentob marks the occasion by profiling its creator, observing him at work and play, and revisiting archive interviews stretching back decades.
11.00 Film: Young Frankenstein. (1974)
12.40 Film: The Producers. (1968) **2.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.50 BBC News.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) **6.35 Dino Dana.** (R) **6.50 Super 4.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.35 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show.** (R) **7.50 Scrambled! Fangbone.** (R) **8.10 Scrambled! The Powerpuff Girls.** (R) **8.30 Scrambled! Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!** (R) **9.05 Scrambled! Wishart.** (R) **9.25 ITV News. 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning. 11.25 The Hungry Sailors.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Dancing on Ice.** (R) **2.30 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury.** (R) **3.00 Celebrity Catchphrase.** (R) **4.00 Tipping Point.** (R) **5.10 The Chase.** (R)
6.00 ITV News: Weather.
6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 Take Me Out. A rower from Luton, a lifeguard from London and a football fan from Ipswich enter the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness presides on the matching process, and also catches up on the latest dating action from all the couples in Fernando's as the dating game bows out for another series. Last in the series.
8.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis hosts the conclusion of the blind auditions phase of the contest, as performers compete for the chance to impress judges Will.I.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Olly Murs and win one of the final places on the coaches' teams. Those contenders surviving this stage of the competition remain in with a chance to win a recording contract with Polydor Records.
9.30 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts the game show in which celebrity panellists Paddy McGuinness, Catherine Tyldesley and Chris Kamara are challenged to identify the homes of the rich and famous.
10.30 ITV News: Weather.
10.45 Film: Lethal Weapon 3. (1992) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson.
12.45 Jackpot247. 3.00 Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun.** (R) **6.45 3rd Rock from the Sun.** (R) **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.35 The King of Queens.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.30 Coast vs Country.** (R) **3.35 A Place in the Sun.** (R) **4.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** (R) **5.35 The Supertv.** (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. New series. Penelope heads on a seaside journey around the coastal villages of the UK. In the first episode, she visits the seaside villages of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight, where she quickly finds herself immersed in stories of seafarers, smugglers and shipwrecks. Previously seen on More4.
8.00 Britain at Low Tide. New series. Natural History Museum palaeontologist Tori Herridge returns with the maritime documentary, which makes use of state-of-the-art technology to explore Britain's coastline for signs of the nation's seafaring history. This time, she begins in East Sussex, where she explores the wreck of a ship that sank in the 1740s along with its cargo, and she uncorks a bottle filled with 18th-century red wine. She also discovers a prehistoric well shaft that is now situated on the foreshore, but would have been much further inland 2,000 years ago.
9.00 Film: Ted 2. (2015) Premiere. The four-mouthed talking teddy bear is horrified to discover that he counts as property according to the law. He and his human best friend hire a pot-smoking lawyer to help them fight a court case and get Ted legally recognised as a person. Comedy sequel, starring Mark Wahlberg and Amanda Seyfried.
11.15 Film: Dracula Untold. (2014) Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans and Dominic Cooper.
12.55 The Last Leg. (R) **1.50 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.55 Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny.** (R) **4.50 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.45 Superfoods: The Real Story.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3.** (R) **11.05 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.00 The A-Team.** (R) **2.00 The A-Team.** (R) **3.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.00 Rich House, Poor House.** (R)
6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey. Dalmatians Daphne and Digby start to develop the spots that will mark them out for life, and take their first stumbling steps in the great outdoors. Ruby the toy poodle's huge personality belies her diminutive frame, while abandoned Jack Russell pup Boomer's shattered confidence will need to be rebuilt by the love of a foster home. (R)
7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald. A Lilliputian lode round the Inner Hebrides puts Jane in touch with her Scottish roots, as with just six other passengers she embarks on what is easily her smallest ever cruise. (R)
8.00 The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship. Part two of The Seven Seas Explorer's designers rush to choose the luxury fittings and fixtures, before Princess Charlene of Monaco christens the vessel. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Middlesbrough, Fulham v Aston Villa and Sunderland v Brentford.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Milton Keynes Dons v Charlton Athletic and Barnet v Accrington Stanley.
10.30 Film: There's Something About Mary. (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart – but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller.
12.40 SuperCasino. 3.10 GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World
8.00 Winter Olympics Extra 9.00 Modus
10.35 Top of the Pops: Xmas 11.10 The Joy of the Bee Gees 12.10 Southern Rock at the BBC **1.10 Sing's Neil Diamond 1.40 The Joy of the Bee Gees 2.40 From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature 3.40 Close**
ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out 12.55 Mr Bean 1.30 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35 FYI Daily 2.40 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas** (2000) **3.15 Film: Spy Kids** (2001) **4.15 FYI Daily 4.20 Film: Spy Kids** (2001) **5.05 Film: Despicable Me 2** (2013) **6.10 FYI Daily 6.15 Film: Despicable Me 2** (2013) **7.00 Film: Jurassic World** (2015) **8.10 FYI Daily 8.15 Film: Jurassic World** (2015) **9.30 Survival of the Fittest 10.35 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.30 The Cleveland Show 1.00 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (2008) **2.00 FYI Daily 2.05 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (2008) **2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
1.20 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) **2.55 Lewis 4.55 Midsomer Murders 6.55 The Durrells 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.05 The Good Karma Hospital 1.55 ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30 Teleshopping**
ITV4
1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ascot 4.00 Film: The Way West (1967) **5.05 FYI Daily 5.10 Film: The Way West** (1967) **6.25 Film: Casino Royale** (1987) **7.25 FYI Daily 7.30 Film: Casino Royale** (1987) **9.00 Film: Executive Decision** (1996) **10.30 FYI Daily 10.35 Film: Executive Decision** (1996) **11.45 Film: Blade** (1998) **12.45 FYI Daily 12.50 Film: Blade** (1998) **2.05 The Protectors 2.35 Counting Cars 3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 Film: Casper (1995) **2.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film: Men in Black** (1997) **9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class** (2011) **11.35 Gogglebox 12.40 The Big Bang Theory 1.04 Celebs Go Dating 2.45 Celebs Go Dating: Valentines 3.35 Celebs Go Dating 4.30 How I Met Your Mother 5.15 Rude (ish) Tube**
Film4
1.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **2.45 Young Sherlock Holmes** (1985) **4.55 Ice Age: The Meltdown** (2006) **6.40 The Day After Tomorrow** (2004) **9.00 Lone Survivor** (2013) **11.20 The Fly II** (1989) **1.25 The Voices** (2014) **3.35 Close**

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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CHOICE



Daniel Day-Lewis

British Academy Film Awards 2018 (BBC1, 9pm)

Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continuing coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Rochdale v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Anglesey, where they go in search of harbour porpoises, investigate the boom in Menai mussels, talk to children who work to keep the beaches clear of plastic, and meet a squirrel whisperer. Plus, Helen Skelton reports on faux fur and Adam Henson discovers how farmers are using facial recognition technology to spot problems with their livestock. **7.30** **Hold the Sunset**. New series. Comedy, starring Alison Steadman as a retired woman whose dreams for the future are disrupted when her middle-aged son abandons his family and moves back into her house. **8.00** **Call the Midwife**. Rumours spread around Poplar that a sailor with smallpox is hiding somewhere in town. Nurse Crane and Dr Turner try to track him down before he causes an outbreak. **9.00** **British Academy Film Awards 2018**. Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards. **11.00** BBC News. **11.20** Regional Programme. **11.30** **Julius Caesar Revealed**. Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman emperor. (R) **12.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Eliidh Barbour presents coverage of day nine. **9.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Further coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **1.45** A Vicar's Life. (R) **2.15** The Crane Gang. (R) **3.15** South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness. (R) **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **6.00** **New York: America's Busiest City**. Behind the scenes with the team who look after all 843 acres of Central Park, revealing the hidden systems and organisational miracles that keep the world's busiest urban park clean and green. Plus, Ant Anstead sees how an entirely new district is being built on top of a functioning rail depot in Manhattan and Dan Snow is in Coney Island, where he discovers that television, air conditioning and extreme weather almost killed off this historic amusement zone. (R) **7.00** **Winter Olympics - Today at the Games**. Clare Balding presents highlights of day nine's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea. **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. The panel assess the profit-making potential of a combined toothbrush and mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. **9.00** **Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution**. New series. Documentary following prisoners in Arkansas awaiting execution following the state's reintroduction of the death penalty. **10.00** **The Mash Report**. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R) **10.30** **Live at the Apollo**. Rob Beckett presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R) **11.15** **Cleeverman**. Koen confronts Linda about the dark secret from their past, Nerida, Alinta and Latani are arrested by the Containment Authority and Jarli takes Charlotte to the land of the Bindawu. **12.05** Film: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) **1.50** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.50** Holly City. (R) **3.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.55** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** The Harbour. (R) **1.30** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.00** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News: Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme; Weather **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** **Dancing on Ice**. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present as the seven remaining pro-celebrity couples put their training into practice in a battle to win viewers' votes, impress the judges and survive another week on the ice. As always, Chris Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo will be scoring them out of 10, but it will only be after the viewers have voted that the unlucky two in the skate off will be revealed. Singer Camila Cabello provides the music. **8.00** **Endeavour**. Morse suspects a connection between a woman's disappearance and the unsolved murder of a teenager several years previously. However, the discovery of a body and some unusual elements to the crime scene suggest another possibility. Thursday investigates a lorry hijack which he believes could be the work of a local gangster, and Fancy takes on an informant who is subsequently murdered. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** **Peston on Sunday**. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R) **11.15** **Frustrated Britain: Caught on Camera**. Examining things that anger the public, featuring an annoying brother, a foul-mouthed granny, celebrities seeing red, and a woman angered by poor spelling. (R) **12.10** Car Wars UK. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water. (2015) Premiere. Animated comedy. **4.45** Film: Rio 2. (2014) **6.35** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Posh Pawn**. James enjoys a tipple from an unusual £75,000 fire engine bar, memorabilia expert Lawrence is presented with an autograph collection that could be worth £20,000, and a former model wants to sell some designer bags to the high-end pawnbrokers to finance the renovation of her house and her body. (R) **8.00** **The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man**. Documentary following scientists at the Natural History Museum and University College London studying Britain's oldest human remains. The skeleton was unearthed in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, and has been dated as 10,000 years old. Two of the world's most acclaimed palaeontological model makers are attempting to recreate the human face of this ancient Briton. **9.00** **Homeland**. New series. The espionage drama returns for a seventh season. Saul and the 200 other federal employees detained after the attempt on the President-elect's life are still in prison, while the new head of state's administration continues to come under scrutiny. Carrie has left her position in the White House and moved back to DC, living with her sister Maggie and her family as she takes on the Keane administration and tries to secure the release of her mentor and colleagues. Starring Claire Danes. **10.15** Film: **Our Kind of Traitor**. (2016) Premiere. A couple are thrown into the murky world of espionage when a Russian gangster asks them to smuggle classified information. Thriller. With Ewan McGregor and Naomie Harris. **12.20** The Supertent. (R) **1.15** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.00** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moby. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Moby: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **12.30** Film: Justin and the Knights of Valour. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **2.15** Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **4.45** Film: Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50** Film: Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Concluded. **7.00** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** **Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R) **8.00** **Dumb Daredavils: Caught in the Act**. Iain Lee narrates comical videos featuring would-be daredevils, including a blogger who will do anything his followers tell him to, including jumping off Tower Bridge. Plus, the programme meets a man whose daredevil marriage proposal has been viewed millions of times and has led to an unusual career change. **9.00** **When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong**. Julian Clary narrates a compilation of disastrous mishaps from comedy shows. Featuring a stunt fight that ended badly for Russell Howard, an incident that left Tony Hancock determined to never perform live again, and a rare outbreak from a long-forgotten sitcom in which Ian Ogilvy and Lionel Jeffries nearly drown. **12.00** Bette Midler: By Her Friends. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Akala's Odyssey **10.00** Film: In From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **12.50** The Secret Life of Books: Cider with Rosie **1.50** Modus **4.05** Close **ITV2** **2.20** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.20** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Survival of the Fittest **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **1.35** Les Dawson Forever **3.40** The Durrells **5.50** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.15** The Security Men **1.15** Blue Murder **2.35** Judge Judy **3.00** George and Mildred **4.20** Road to Avonlea **ITV4** **12.35** Pawn Stars **2.25** Hornblower **4.40** Film: The Way West (1967) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: The Way West (1967) **7.05** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **9.00** Film: High Plains Drifter (1973) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: High Plains Drifter (1973) **11.10** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **1.20** The Professionals **E4** **11.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** Toy Story Toons: Hawaiian Vacation **1.15** The Big Bang Theory: Sheldon's Family Tree **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.15** Film: Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Celebs Go Dating **2.10** Don't Tell the Bride: Valentine's Day **3.05** First Dates Abroad **3.30** Hollyoaks **Film4** **1.00** Last Holiday (2006) **3.10** Carry On Jack (1963) **5.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **6.50** E! Joe: Retaliation (2013) **9.00** The Family (2013) **11.10** Zero Dark Thirty (2012) **2.15** The Future (2011) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse as a way of dealing with a tragedy, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home to her family. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo and Chazz Palminteri. (2013)

TUESDAY

Deadly Departure, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington, DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer, Victoria Pratt and Justin Johnson. (2016)



Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Friday, Channel 4, 12.05am

WEDNESDAY

A Housekeeper's Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A student fears for her life after a number of disturbing occurrences, leaving her desperately searching for the culprit. The search leads to her family housemaid - unaware their connection is much deeper than expected. Thriller, starring Chrysti Ane. (2016)

THURSDAY

Killer Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A National Guard soldier returns from the frontline in Iraq and struggles to return to a normal life. To make matters worse, she finds herself blamed for a friendly fire incident in which two Americans were killed - and then she becomes the target of an obsessed fellow soldier seeking revenge for their deaths. Thriller, starring Roxanne McGee. (2016)

FRIDAY

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Channel 4, 12.05am

A werewolf leads a revolution against the vampire king who has enslaved his race, starting a centuries-long war. Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen and Bill Nighy. (2009)

Grim new case is far from child's play for Marcella

You might be well-apprised of the police procedural format by now; typically, our hero detectives are broody rebels touched by crime-solving genius.

In ITV's Twitter-storming 2016 'London Noir' thriller Marcella, the heroine had bigger issues than a meddling DCI or an unhealthy relationship with booze - plagued by dissociative fugues, DS Marcella Backland suffered periodical black-outs, and while she appeared to function normally during these moments, she was later unable to remember anything she had done during these episodes.

This proved incredibly problematic when her cheating husband's mistress suddenly turned up dead - and Marcella wasn't able to say with any confidence whether this was the work of a fugitive serial killer, or her own misdeed.

Naturally, this issue became the core of the show's appeal, and the fact wasn't lost on actress Anna Friel: "It's a study of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown whilst

holding down a really full on job."

Just like it's ITV crime-drama stablemate Broadchurch, Marcella gave its female lead a highly personal stake in catching the killer, and the idea carries over to the second series. In the words of writer Hans Rosenfeldt: "Marcella is a show that is just as much about Marcella being Marcella as it is about her being a police officer. So, it works best when the case she is working on is connected to her personal life in some way."

This time around, we catch up with her following a grim discovery inside a wall. The body of a child is found, clothed in a school blazer and surrounded by soft toys, and Marcella is devastated when she realises the tragic victim is Leo Priestley, a boy who was abducted a few years earlier - and one who had been friends with her own son Edward.

As a result, work follows Marcella back home once again. Not only must she protect her own children from a deadly predator, but she also has to help her son come to terms

with the death of a schoolmate. And it seems her efforts might not quite hit the mark.

"Marcella has thoughts on whether she deserves to be a mother or not," states Friel. "She seems to try her best but maybe that's not enough."

Considering the demands of playing a character whose life falls apart on a routine basis, it must be hard for the ex-Brookside star to get back into Marcella's head-space. Not so, claims Friel: "As soon as the fringe was cut back in and my hair was pulled back into the ponytail, I was like 'oooh, she's back'".

For some, though, the mark of a great Scandi-style thriller heroine rests solely on her wardrobe. Danish actress Sarah Lund famously jump-started a knitwear revolution with her Faroe Isle jumper in The Killing, and back in 2016, high-street retailers struggled to keep up with demand for replicas of Marcella's own fur-trimmed casual parka. So does the coat make a reappearance this series?



Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

24 Hours in Police Custody Channel 4, 9pm

The return of the programme that follows the work of Bedfordshire Police around-the-clock, with enquiries covered from the cells at Luton to the operational heart of major cases. The first edition goes behind the scenes of a major investigation into an allegation of police corruption, with the unprecedented access given by the police meaning that cameras are allowed to document all of the twists and turns of the case as detectives track down, arrest and then charge one of their fellow officers.

TUESDAY

The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies Channel 5, 8pm

As a nation we're obsessed with dogs, so little wonder this series featuring the QI veteran has been so successful over the years. Now it's back for a sixth run, and once more the heart-warming documentary profiles RSPCA officers, including Sarah Gardener. She enters one of the largest multi-dog households ever seen. Cameras also follow Anthony Puffer, who attempts to help six dogs caught in a house fire in south east London, and there's a happy ending for two dogs left in the lurch by their owner.

Shetland

BBC1, 9pm

As the eponymous region is relatively small, there are only so many places killers can run - the airport or the coast. So Jimmy Perez has an easier job than some TV detectives. Or does he? Considering the problems he's faced over the years, one of Shetland's most amiable detectives is beset by no end of bad luck, so hopefully he'll get a break in the latest offering. The hunt is on for Malone's attacker, Tosh investigates Forst Energy in the search for Sally's killer, and DNA in the Kilmuir case yields a surprising result. Good support comes from Alison O'Donnell.

Working for Weinstein

Channel 4, 10pm

For years the Weinstein Company and Miramax were film brands synonymous with quality productions. And then everything changed. Under criminal investigation in Britain and the US, expelled from Bafta and the Academy of Motion Pictures, Harvey Weinstein's fall from grace has been swift since allegations of sexual abuse and harassment emerged against

him last October. This documentary hears testimony from those who worked with him across 30 years of British film, and investigates how he kept his accusers quiet for decades.

WEDNESDAY

The BRIT Awards 2018 ITV, 8pm

The all-conquering Ed Sheeran may have dominated the charts on both sides of the Atlantic over the past 12 months, but tonight he could well be upstaged by a 22-year-old breakthrough pop star from London. Dua Lipa, who scored a huge summer hit with New Rules, has earned the most nominations at the 2018 Brit awards, receiving nods in the British Female Solo Artist, Breakthrough Act, Single, Video and British Album. Another one of the biggest sellers of 2017, Sam Smith's The



The BRIT Awards 2018, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

Thrill of it All, has been completely shut out of the nominations. But the good news for his fans though is that he is confirmed to perform, as are the likes of Foo Fighters, Justin Timberlake and Rita Ora. Finally, new host Jack Whitehall has been brought in to inject some risqué humour into proceedings.

THURSDAY

Girls on the Edge BBC2, 9pm

Observational documentary following three girls who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act to prevent them from harming themselves. Their detention is indefinite and the film explores the impact on them, their siblings and their parents, who do not know when their children will be allowed home. They include a 17-year-old who hopes to be discharged before her 18th birthday and a 16-year-old whose mother is desperate to have her home - but is worried about having the responsibility of keeping her daughter safe once more.

FRIDAY

Live Six Nations Rugby Union BBC1, 7.30pm

France v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match from the third round of fixtures, which takes place at Orange Velodrome in Marseille.



6-10 MARCH

QUARTET

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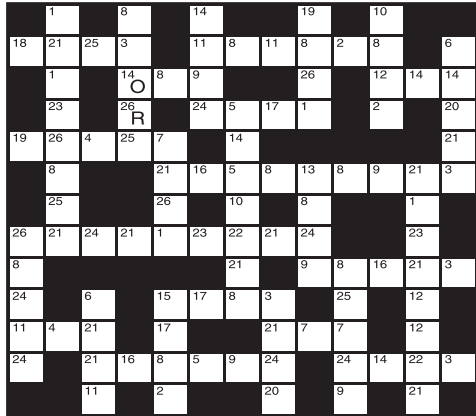
Express & Star

BRAIN GYM

No.467

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	F	S	Y	V	N	G	E	T	B	I	M	W													
U	Q	J	X	A	H	Z	C	K	D	O	L	R													

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

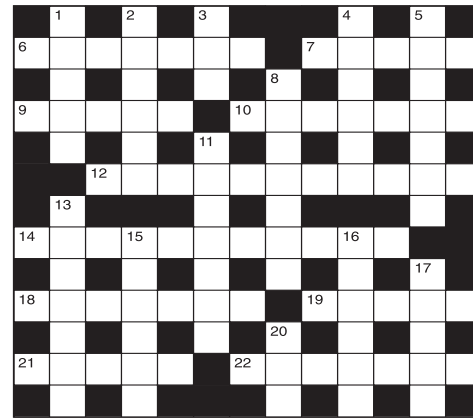
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Club which may improve the flow of writing (7)
7. Passed a writer in the street (5)
9. One taking part (5)
10. Settled for having the team in red (7)
12. Be likely to profit by a rise? (5,2,4)
14. Not an offence, but a solicitor may be consulted about it (5,6)
18. Invest capital, perhaps? (7)
19. Look well on (5)
21. Colour an Irishman goes about in (5)
22. Declining music for a song (7)

Down

1. You can put it on a horse that's a sure thing (5)
2. Not quite a fifty majority (6)
3. A small court of law (3)
4. Bound over for three months (6)
5. Succeed with a will in their resolve (7)
8. Willingly die? (7)
11. General form of increase (7)
13. Some leavers reform (7)
15. Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)
16. Not even a strange thing (6)
17. Charles I was an old woman! (5)
20. Hardened bunch (3)



Quick Clues:

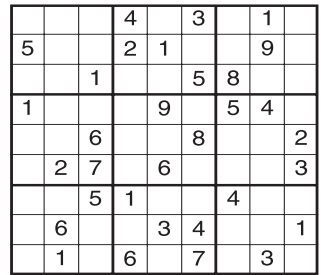
Across

6. Wretched (7)
7. She-fox (5)
9. First-rate (5)
10. Advise (7)
12. Remonstrate (11)
14. Prodigal (11)
18. Fluent (7)
19. Flood (5)
21. Ardent (5)
22. Shortage (7)

Down

1. Truck (5)
2. Culmination (6)
3. Globe (3)
4. Indication (6)
5. Keepsake (7)
8. House (7)
11. Summon (7)
13. Elucidate (7)
15. Recompense (6)
16. Serviette (6)
17. Garret (5)
20. Not many (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	9	5	6	8	7	2	3
8	2	7	3	1	4	6	9	5
3	5	6	7	2	9	8	4	1
7	6	8	9	5	1	4	3	2
5	3	1	4	7	2	9	8	6
4	9	2	6	8	3	1	5	7
9	7	5	2	4	6	3	1	8
6	8	4	1	3	5	2	7	9
2	1	3	8	9	7	5	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grounds; 7 Umber; 9 Car; 10 Ordinance; 12 Grasscutter; 15 Under his hat; 17 Willpower; 19 Rot; 21 Steer; 22 Malaise. Down: 1 Break; 2 Out; 3 Order; 4 Impartial; 5 Teacher; 8 Discus; 11 Orderlies; 13 School; 14 Anxiety; 16 Loose; 18 Elan; 20 Lay.
 QUICK - Across: 6 Heathen; 7 Loyal; 9 Age; 10 Imprudent; 12 Second-class; 15 Infantrymen; 17 Incontinent; 19 Pry; 21 Acute; 22 Astound. Down: 1 Feign; 2 Sty; 3 Deem; 4 Gondolier; 5 Earnest; 8 Friday; 11 Devastate; 13 Outing; 14 Invoice; 16 Brine; 18 Also; 20 Rot.

Quiz

- Which delicacy comes in American, Norway and spiny varieties?
- Which composer was Richard Wagner's father-in-law?
- How is the laughing jackass also known?
- What was Thomas Edison's middle name?
- Who was Lynne Frederick's first husband?
- Which Yorkshire town includes the remains of the castle where Richard II died?
- What type of edible plant is laver?
- What is a skink?
- In which sport are the Swaythling and Corbillion Cups contested?
- Which dreamer was the creation of US humorist James Thurber?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bernard; 2 Foreign Secretary; 3 Pool; 4 David Langton; 5 Scrofula; 6 Charlie Chaplin; 7 Mermaid; 8 Rosh Hashanah; 9 George VI; 10 Lerner and Loewe.

Niner: SIDETRACK

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4389 gives grime,
 1726 gives more grime,
 5834 gives residue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Stone me, this is really something!

THEY arrived in their coachloads, packing the car parks and lining the streets. I know this area of France is beautiful but we were curious to see what this attraction was.

We soon spotted the answer – hundreds of stones lined up – they are called the alignments and date back centuries. What they are exactly and why they are all there no-one seems to really know. It is believed they have a religious or spiritual link and they certainly draw the crowds – at all times of the day.

We were lucky to be staying at a stunning Castels site near Carnac in Brittany, just across the road from the stones so we had a bird's eye view. No, we had not chosen that site for that reason – in fact this was just another lovely surprise at the stunning La Grand Metaire site.

RELAXED

We arrived early evening after a very relaxing Brittany Ferries crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff, the perfect crossing for the area as it was a relatively short drive to the site – just over two hours.

And with a cabin with a television we could relax and watch a bit of the tennis on TV before we docked. Even possible to have a shower in the cabin so you can start the journey feeling refreshed.

We have travelled to France many times over the years And one thing we always comment on is the roads. On our way to Carnac we encountered no holds up – nothing, like the M5 or M6 – and very very few potholes. What a luxury!

We were child and grandchild free for the week but for families there is plenty to entertain younger ones with zip wires, pony rides, pools with slides, indoor pool – just in case of rain – although the weather was lovely while we were there, tennis, mini golf etc.

Idyllic pool setting for adults and children



Just some of the many popular alignments



And the entertainments team excelled themselves with shows every night in the bar or the amphitheatre.

There were so many lovely areas close to the site and as we had hire bikes for the week it was a great way to tour around. A short ride took us into the centre of Carnac where the Sunday market is bustling with both the locals and tourists and Carnac Plage, full of bars and shops. Further afield we ventured into Trinite sur Mer a lovely tourist spot with a huge port, and on to the quaint village of Plouharnel.

A little bit further afield and back to four wheels now took us to the walled city of Vannes where we picnicked by the riverside and Auray – the old and the new areas. Parking no problem and very cheap.

Back to the site where we enjoyed morning tennis and evening petanque and popped to see the on-site animal

collection with goats, chicken and the endearing alpacas.... but do not feed!

Our very modern mobile home was in the perfect spot, a secluded corner with plenty of space and its own BQ so we could eat out every night and sip – no gulp down – lots of the lovely, very cheap, French wine. The site also offers pitches for tents.

The first night we were greeted at our emplacement by a bunch of pirates, not scary though just a plug for that night's show. The whole site staff, entertainers etc, were very helpful and provided tips, maps etc on places to visit. I can speak some French but hardly needed to as their English was so good. A lovely holiday, so well looked after and entertained, who could ask for more and my love of France just gets stronger.

SUE ATTWATER

FACTFILE

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A spokesman for the selling agents said: "Viewing is essential to fully appreciate this outstanding home."

To book a viewing, contact the selling agents, Taylors, at their local branch office on 01902 880888.



Attractive double fronted property is much improved

This attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage in Stourbridge Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, has well maintained and improved three-bedroomed accommodation.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £325,000.

HAGLEY
£325,000

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, cellar, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, cloakroom/WC, three bedrooms, an en-suite shower

room, a bathroom, car parking and gardens. The property occupies a pleasant and convenient location with splendid open views to the front to Wychbury.

To book that all important viewing to see if this your ideal next home, contact Wakeman Estate Agents on 01384 459999 or visit www.wakeman-online.com

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



HALESOWEN, Lutley Ave £1,000 pcm+Fees
A unique modern individually designed 3 bedroom detached house with a lovely wooded rear aspect to Lutley. Featuring a large open plan living room with wooden floors and French doors leading to a private decking area, contemporary kitchen with oven/hob & dishwasher, utility room, downstairs WC, 3 generous size bedrooms with master bedroom en-suite, beautiful modern bathroom with shower, gas central heated and double glazed throughout. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Narrow Lane £950 pcm+Fees
A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to rent this semi detached large family home which has been totally refurbished to a very high standard. Located in this very popular location close to all bus & train links. Featuring 2 large reception rooms, beautiful fitted kitchen, utility, private rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, Racemeadow Crescent £750 pcm+Fees
A lovely modern 3 bedroom detached house in a popular area close to schools and transport links. With entrance hall, large lounge, separate dining room, kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c., south facing rear garden, 3 good sized bedrooms, master en-suite & fitted wardrobes, family bathroom, gas central heating & double glazed. A large corner plot with garage & driveway parking. A beautiful property not to be missed!! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Caslon Road £695 pcm+Fees
A lovely recently decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac location conveniently located close to shops, schools, transport links & all amenities. Featuring entrance lobby, spacious living room, modern kitchen with pantry & electric cooker, downstairs w.c. & separate utility area, upstairs are 2 spacious double bedrooms & 1 large single room, family bathroom with shower over bath, large front & back garden with views. On road parking. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Walker Avenue £675 pcm+Fees
A modern semi-detached house offering spacious family accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House £650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green is this superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Darby Street £625 pcm+Fees
A well presented 3 bedroom mid terrace house which has been re-painted throughout, entrance hall, front lounge, large kitchen/diner with oven/hob, 3 good size bedrooms and family bathroom with shower fitting over bath. Low maintenance rear garden, allocated parking to rear of property. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Holt Road £595 pcm+Fees
Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station, not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terrace house. Featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Lyttleton House £595 pcm+Fees
An attractively positioned, 1 bedroom, purpose built over 60s retirement apartment in Halesowen. Featuring large communal lounge, gardens and laundrette facilities and lift access. This ground floor apartment is accessed via the secure communal hallway with intercom access. Featuring a kitchen with fridge freezer, double bedroom with built in wardrobe, shower room and spacious lounge, electric storage heating and double glazing, parking. Price to include water rates. EPC: TBC



QUARRY BANK, Bower Lane £575 pcm+Fees
We are delighted to offer for let this mid terrace house which is well located for shops, schools and amenities including Merry Hill, Russells Hill Hospital and Cradley Heath Train Station. Comprising briefly: 2 reception rooms, large kitchen with new oven & hob, new flooring, downstairs bathroom with a new shower, 2 good size bedrooms and garden to rear. Benefiting from gas central heating & full double glazing. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close £575 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. A top floor unfurnished apartment which has modern decoration and is set in a cul-de-sac features: 2 good size bedrooms, modern kitchen with appliances, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Long Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property close to railway & bus links. This modern home benefits from double glazing and briefly comprises: hallway, spacious lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom suite & shower over bath, electric storage heaters, front & rear garden and parking to the rear of the property. EPC: E



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £575 pcm+Fees
Within a 5 minutes drive of Brierley Hill Town Centre & few minutes more from Merry Hill shopping centre, is this unfurnished end terrace house comprising of: nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, modern shower room, allocated parking space, large rear garden with shed. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £550 pcm+Fees
Semi detached house in central Halesowen. This property has 2 large double bedrooms, reception room, kitchen with hob/crookware & fridge, utility room, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazed. NO PARKING. NO ACCESS TO FRONT RECEPTION AS FORMALLY A SHOP. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Princess Crescent £545 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished modern 1st floor apartment in a sought after cul-de-sac location. Featuring electric storage heating, good size living room, fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage & driveway parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Furnace Hill £525 pcm+Fees
A 2 bedroom mid terrace home, being double glazed and centrally heated. The accommodation is suitably located for nearby amenities and has accommodation to comprise a through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street £500 pcm+Fees
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars. EPC: C LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE GUARANTOR



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ladysmith Road £495 pcm+Fees
A mid terrace house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new, downstairs shower room, 2 good sized bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, Luanne Close £465 pcm+Fees
A well presented ground floor flat, on this popular development within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and shops. Featuring gas central heating, living room with door leading to your own private balcony, fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and patio doors onto balcony, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking space, unfurnished. DEPOSIT £750. EPC: G



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road £450 pcm+Fees
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street £450 pcm+Fees
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the ground floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, on road parking. EPC: TBC

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6

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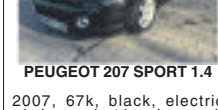
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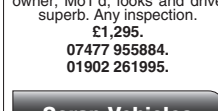
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New Sport Model joins luxury Lexus RX line-up

The Lexus RX is making a stylish start to 2018 with the addition of a new Sport model to the luxury crossover range.

The combination of new, black-themed style details plus an equipment specification rich in luxury and technology features give the new RX Sport extra customer appeal, together with the proven quality, refinement and efficiency of its self-charging petrol-electric hybrid powertrain.

The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements with a matching black finish. This includes a powerful rendition of the trademark Lexus spindle grille, featuring a sequence of horizontal black fins, framed in chrome and flanked by fog lights set in new black surrounds.

The 20-inch alloy wheels have a twin-spoke design and are also finished in black.

The side profile is further punctuated by new black housings for the heated, electrically adjustable door mirrors with integrated turn indicators and auto-folding function.

The cabin has an all-black theme, including the smooth leather upholstery.

At the rear a new black and chrome diffuser treatment for the lower part of the bumper creates a strong contrast



The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements

with the bodywork colour while also expressing the RX's status as a spacious SUV with all-wheel drive capability.

It sits at the heart of the RX range as an accessible choice for customers, based on the Luxury grade.

In addition to its specific external features, the RX Sport is equipped to a high level. LED headlights with Automatic High Beam, smooth leather upholstery Lexus Premium Navigation, a 12.3-inch multimedia

display, heated and ventilated front seats with power adjustment and a memory setting for the driver's seat, steering wheel and door mirrors.

The fourth generation RX has a top five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP and all versions are fitted with the Lexus Safety System+ package of active safety and driver assistance features.

The new RX Sport is on sale now, priced £51,645 on-the-road.

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Duncan's first cousin Keith Edwards takes a look the exhibition



Exhibition organiser Jim Cadman from Stourbridge



Visitor Rose Cook-Monk signs the book of remembrance



Duncan as a youngster with pals



Edwards in an England cap. He played 18 times for his country

Exhibition kicks off to honour legend Duncan

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

AN exhibition in honour of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards has been launched and will run until March 30.

The display includes a special book of remembrance to mark the 60th anniversary this month of the Dudley-born Manchester United and England star's death.

Among the first to sign the book was Tony Whelan, a former Manchester United player and now assistant director of the club's academy.

He was joined by Birmingham teenage prospect Dermot Mee, who is currently in the youth set-up at Old Trafford and hoping to follow in Duncan's footsteps.

The pair made a special trip from Manchester to get a glimpse of the exhibition in Duncan's honour. It is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, near the Black Country Living Museum, and features a host of photographs, press cuttings, memorabilia and football programmes relating to legendary 'Busby Babe'.

Privilege

Mr Whelan said: "We are proud to follow in the footsteps of Duncan. He will be a Manchester United legend forever, and it was a real honour and a privilege to come down today to see this new exhibition."

Dermot said: "Duncan was very special to everyone at Man United throughout his time at the club."

"He has inspired many of us players to continue right to the end, chasing our dreams."

"His story is a special one for me as obviously we're both from a similar neck of the woods, and it would be a dream to follow in his footsteps one day."

United and England icon Duncan was one of eight players who died following the Munich air disaster on February 6, 1958. He died 15 days later on February 21, aged just 21. The book of remembrance forms part of an extended exhibition honouring the footballer.

The museum, which is normally closed on a Sun-



Edwards in action for Manchester United

day, will be open especially from noon to 2pm on February 18 as part of the commemoration.

It will tie in with a special service of remembrance on the same day at St Francis's Church, where there are two stained glass windows celebrating Duncan's memory.

Around 80 Manchester United fans are expected to travel on the day for the service and to visit the museum, as well as visiting Duncan's grave at Queen's Cross cemetery and stopping off at his statue in the town centre.

A special wall of remembrance is also being set up at the church, where Duncan's funeral was held, for visitors. It will tell the story of his life, from his childhood in Priory Park to his days playing for the Red Devils and England, and was being unveiled at the

start of this week. A Duncan Edwards Tribute Dinner will take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on February 21 with special guests including former Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and European Cup-winning goalkeeper Alex Stepney, as well as members of the Manchester United Former Players Association.

Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I would urge anyone who has any memories of Duncan Edwards to get along to this exhibition and put pen to paper in the book. He was a giant of the beautiful game, and he was Dudley born and bred."

In total Duncan made 177 appearances for Manchester United, scoring 21 goals, and playing his part in two league title wins in the mid to late 1950s. Nicknamed 'The Tank', he also won 18 caps for England, netting five times for the national side.

Travelled

He was once famously described by former teammate and best friend Sir Bobby Charlton as "the only player who made me feel inferior".

Duncan and Sir Bobby shared the same digs in Manchester and during National Service near Shrewsbury they travelled together on the train every Friday night for Saturday matches before returning to the Army on Monday.

Sir Bobby said: "Duncan was the complete footballer - a colossus, powerful with his heading ability and unbreakable in the tackle. He would rampage tirelessly across the pitch, had a perfect first touch and was deadly in front of goal."

Sir Bobby, who was pulled from the burning wreckage of the aircraft, has never forgotten those who perished in the disaster. He said: "Almost 60 years have passed since I last saw Duncan when I left hospital in Munich and I still think of him almost every day."

"I am very pleased to be part of this tribute in Dudley that will pay homage to the memory of my friend, team-mate and the greatest footballer I have ever seen."

For further information on any of the events taking place as part of the tribute, log onto www.duncanwardtribute.com, email jwc@duncanwardtribute.com or call Jim Cadman on 07971624627.

Admission is free and all items will remain at the centre after it ends.

Stokes buzzing over fight night at Genting

BOXER Josh Stokes is buzzing to get in the ring at the Genting Arena and earn the fifth victory of his burgeoning career. The 24-year-old will compete on BCB Promotions' 'Now Or Never' show on February 23.

It was initially set to be on the undercard of Frankie Gavin's IBO World Welterweight Championship bid. However, that has now been rescheduled for March 24.

West Bromwich light heavyweight Stokes hasn't fought since stopping Latvian Raimonds Sniedze in September last year but believes this will be to his advantage. "I was supposed to fight in December but I wasn't very well, so I couldn't," he said.

"I think the break will have done me good anyway," he added. "I have been working hard in the gym and it has given me a chance to work on a few different things. It is a class show and I cannot wait to get out and box there. I don't think I will be fazed by it."

Tickets, from £40, are available from theticketfactory.com

Kindon guest speaker at Smile for Joel night

FORMER Wolves star Steve Kindon is the guest speaker at a sportsman's dinner in aid of the Smile For Joel charity next month. It takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday, March 1.

Tables of 10 are £400 plus VAT with a former player from either Villa, Wolves, Albion, Blues or Walsall on each table.

Event organiser Steve Saul, from Route 39, said: "The support we get from former players from the local clubs is amazing. Last year we raised £6,000 for Smile For Joel and we are looking to top that this year."

Contact Route 39 on 01902 244220 to book places or for more information.

The cause was set up in memory of Tunisia terror attack victims Charles Evans, Joel Richards and Adrian Evans, from Wednesbury, who died in 2015.

Former Wolves winger Kindon is a five-times winner of the Soccer Speaker of the Year award.

Promotion recalled as trio take centre stage

THE manager, captain and Player of the Year from Wolves' historic first promotion to the Premier League are back in Wolverhampton to mark the occasion's 15th anniversary.

Boss Dave Jones, defender Paul Butler and goalkeeper Matt Murray will be at the ECC Sports and Social Club, on Showell Road on March 1.

The 2003 Championship play-off final, a 3-0 win over Sheffield United at Cardiff, will be shown in full before the trio take centre stage.

Jones, aged 61, is back in the area, living at the Bridgnorth home he's retained since his time in charge of Wolves, from January 2001 to November 2004. Murray, 36, is now a pundit after being forced to retire from the game due to injury. He saved a penalty in the play-off final.

Butler left Molineux the following summer and played for Leeds, Milton Keynes Dons and Chester before hanging up his boots in 2009. He's now 45.

Tickets are £10, which includes a buffet and photo opportunity. For more information and to buy, call into the venue or dial 01902 424455.



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DK runners relegated to division three

FOR many the weekend signalled the end of a long cross country season for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Going into the final match rooted to the bottom of the table the men knew they would be up against it, they had been at the foot of the table all season. The difference between dominating Division 3 two years ago and being competitive at Division 2 level is a world apart.

On a four lap course around farmland the blue hoops worked hard to ensure they said goodbye to the division with the guts and determination. Steve Holdcroft, having placed 3rd in the Stourbridge Stagger the previous weekend, again performed well placing 21st in 38.39, Darran Bishop was 114th in 43.20, Dave Norman was 150th in 45.16, Mark Homer was a place behind in 45.24, Simon Blizard was 187th in 47.43 and Pete Hood completed the A team in 193rd position in 48.32. Simon Hughes finished in 200th place in 48.59, Mark Gatenby was 202nd in 49.02, Dave Hickman was 205th in 49.57, Andrew Weaver was 217th in 51.52, Graham Wildgoose was 227th in 53.10 and Richard Jones was 233rd in 54.26.

DK were placed 17th of 17 clubs on the day and confirmed their relegation to Division 3 with Northbrook and Gloucester AC.

At Aldersley Stadium for their final fixture the ladies were only able to muster half a dozen runners. Hannah McGuire covered the course in 30.47 to take 92nd place.

Haul of medals brings confidence to swimming club

THE second, and final, weekend of competition at the Worcester County Swimming Championships saw Halesowen collect another impressive medal haul.

Club captain Josh Bradley won the men's 50m breaststroke and both the 100m & 200m individual medleys, while Maia Noonan continued her fantastic championships with victories in the 12 and under girls 200m butterfly and 100m freestyle along with a silver in a hotly contested 50m breaststroke.

There were podium finishes for Ryan Larkin who, in the men's age category, bagged two silvers in the 100m medley and 100m freestyle and two bronzes in the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.

Olivia Jay achieved a clean sweep of bronze medals in the ladies 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke events. Joe South rounded out the medal winners with a bronze in the 14 year old boys 50m breaststroke.

Hopes are high that confidence gained at the county championships will convert to strong performances in the upcoming Winter League and Nuneaton Junior League fixtures.

Charlotte nets England squad call-up



Charlotte Bardsley

TABLE tennis ace Charlotte Bardsley is relishing the chance to learn from the world's best after being called up to the England squad for the Team World Cup in London - aged just 15.

Charlotte, of Stourbridge, will step out in front of thousands of spectators at the Copper Box Arena at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, from February 22-25. The tournament brings together the six continental championship-winning teams, plus the best

finishers from the 2016 World Team Championships.

England have a host nation place and will be among the underdogs. The other teams to qualify are Singapore, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Romania, North Korea, USA, Brazil, Egypt and Australia.

They will be drawn in groups of three, with the top two going into the quarter-finals. However, Charlotte, who attends Heathfield School in Wolverley,

believes they could cause some upsets. She said: "I'm really happy to be called up. It's 100 per cent the biggest event I will have been to, on a whole other level from anything else."

"They are all really tough teams and none of them are going to be easy but we're known for causing upsets."

Charlotte has been named in the England squad alongside Tin-Tin Ho, Kelly Sibley, Maria Tsaptsinos and Denise Payet.

RELIEF AT LAST AS YELTZ WIN

Halesowen Town 2 Rushall Olympic 0
TWO red cards and eight yellows were brandished in a fiery local derby that saw Halesowen move away from the foot of the table.

This much-needed win ended a five-game losing streak for Yeltz and brought a sense of relief along with news of an imminent takeover at The Grove.

Hopes of avoiding relegation were also boosted when fellow strugglers Sutton Coldfield were docked a point for fielding an ineligible player. It takes Yeltz off the bottom of the table, with only one team being relegated at the end of the season.

On Saturday, the Pics had the better of the early chances with ex-Yeltz defender Joe Hull heading a corner wide.

Halesowen's Jordan Goddard went close when his 25 yard shot was tipped over by Rushall's on-loan Port Vale goalkeeper Joe Slinn after 14 minutes.

Brawl

The game's major flashpoint came after 40 minutes when Pics forward Richard Brodie tussled with Yeltz manager John Hill. His assistant Matt Clarke then became involved before a mass brawl broke out. After the situation settled, Hill was sent from the dug-out and Brodie was also red-carded, reducing Rushall to ten men.

Halesowen took advantage by taking the lead in the first minute of the second half when a 25 yard shot from Goddard was only pushed away by Slinn and Lee Knight was on hand to convert the rebound on his Yeltz debut.

Rushall proceeded to pick up a string of further bookings as they struggled to keep their composure. Jack Kelly doubled Halesowen's lead directly from a 65th minute right-wing corner.

Yeltz travel to Marine on Saturday in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Ladies produce best ever finish



Halesowen's Midland Ladies Cross Country Division 2 racers

HALESOWEN A&CC ladies produced their best ever performance in the Midland Ladies Cross Country League Division 2 at Aldersley Wolverhampton, finishing third on the day, only 25 points from being promoted and finishing overall fourth.

Led home by Lily Higgins in fourth and first junior, she was followed in by Abigail Saker in 10th. Masters ladies filled the rest of the places.

Twenty ladies represented the most ever for a cross country race in Halesowen ACC colours. The Masters team finished sixth overall.

Meanwhile the men took on the challeng-

ing course at Cheltenham finishing fourth on the day in the Birmingham and District Cross Country Division 2, missing out on promotion in overall fourth. Adam Cross in 22nd led them home.

Away from the country in the Regional Indoor Meeting Iris Oliarnyk won the triple lump equalling her personal best with a winning leap of 11:71 and two weeks previously set a PB in the shot put with a winning distance of 12:54.

With only the National Cross country in two weeks, action switches to the road and track for the athletes.

Holloway is on target for county side

HALESOWEN full-back Andy Holloway was among the points scorers as Worcester's Weston's Fields ground after Shropshire led 13-12 at half-time and then extended their lead to 18-12.

The Two Counties had to come from behind to take victory at Worcester's Weston's Fields ground after Shropshire led 13-12 at half-time and then extended their lead to 18-12.

Evesham prop Tom Gazey burrowed over for the first try after 15 minutes with Bredon Star centre Ross Attwood adding the extras for W&H. Poor discipline at the breakdown allowed Newport scrum-half Rhys Harry to reduce the deficit to a point with two penalties.

A try from Evesham centre Wilf Watson rewarded the Two Counties for a period of pressure but Newport number eight Joquin Jimenez went over from close range on the stroke of half-time and Harry added the extras to put Shropshire ahead.

W&H's missed an opportunity to regain the lead when Mike Diston was off target with a penalty early in the second half and Shropshire went further ahead when Newport wing Nathan Smart raced over for an unconverted try.

A well-taken try from Old Halesonians' Holloway was converted by Attwood to regain the lead and the latter then added a penalty four minutes from time.

W&H, seeking a hat-trick of titles, face Greater Birmingham at Birmingham Exiles on February 21.

It's a spot of bother for the Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Farsley Celtic 2

A GIFTED opener, a goal 48 seconds after half-time and a saved penalty saw Farsley Celtic further hamper Stourbridge's faltering play-off bid.

Glassboys keeper Harry Beasley suffered a moment to forget as Ben Atkinson's low-shot skipped up off the turf and sailed over him 18 minutes in.

Luke Benbow soon erased that moment of misfortune by firing in a deflected leveller within two minutes but Farsley struck what proved to be the decisive blow with less than a minute of the second half played. Benbow scuffed a spot-kick for an easy save 52 minutes in.

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